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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Formally Told of Iraqi Meeting Request

JN0611205090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2002 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tunisia, 6 Nov (INA)—Iraq today formally informed the Arab League General Secretariat of its request for an emergency Arab League Council meeting at the ministerial level to discuss the existing dangers to Arab League institutions.

The Arab League General Secretariat distributed the Iraqi memorandum among the League's member states with the aim of setting an urgent date for the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry last Saturday [3 November] called for an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers so they could adopt a decisive and responsible stand toward the issue and tackle it in such a way as to maintain Arab League institutions and safeguard its unity.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria Said To Oppose Force

JN0611114190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[Report by Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] It has become certain that holding an Arab summit conference is being given very careful and cautious consideration, particularly as the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Moroccan diplomatic machines are working silently to achieve this objective which has turned from an Arab wish into an international demand spearheaded by the USSR, France, and the PRC.

Arab diplomatic sources in Amman have said that the Arab Maghreb Union member states are supporting the Arab solution. They added that these states, especially Morocco and Algeria, are quietly endeavoring to achieve this objective. The sources went on to say that consultations are being secretly held between some Arab sides and other international sides, including the Nonaligned Movement's member states and some Islamic states which are urging Arab states belonging to opposing camps to find an Arab solution, especially considering that previous disputes among Arab states were solved through Arab frameworks and endeavors.

The sources said: The Arabs also played a prominent role in resolving international disputes such as the Afghan conflict and the dispute over Kashmir, not to mention inter-African disputes. Hence, it is appropriate that they settle their problems away from the interference of others, given that numerous important and objective ideas have been recently discussed by Arab sides, foremost among which are the eight points proposed by the PLO—the eight points conveyed to the USSR, France, the PRC, and some Arab sides which are in the opposing camp.

Within this context, Arab Maghreb envoys have continued their contacts with Arab states to probe their leaders' views on the possibility of convening an Arab summit which will most probably be hosted by Morocco after His Majesty King Hassan II adopted positive stands on an Arab solution despite the presence of token Moroccan troops in Saudi Arabia.

The diplomatic sources revealed that differences arose among the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council during their recent Riyadh conference between the advocates of an Arab solution and the supporters of a military solution. The sources added that the Sultanate of Oman opposed the military solution demanded by Kuwait.

The Arab sources said that the Egyptian, Saudi, and Syrian foreign ministers who have recently met in Jeddah agreed to oppose a military solution to the Gulf crisis and to encourage the peace efforts being made to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis.

The sources added that the three ministers who will meet in Damascus today will draw up a working mechanism on ways to spare the Gulf region the dangers and adverse consequences of a war whose arena would be the Arab region.

The sources went on to say that a heated debate took place on the consequences of a military solution. They said that those who participated in the debate reached the conclusion that a military solution would destroy the region in terms of wealth, military strength, and existing regimes and that they have no choice but to find a political settlement that would safeguard the Arabs' wealth and strength.

The sources went on to say: We have to act wisely, because the crisis concerns the Arab nation's destiny, since Arab lands would be the scene of the war whose drums are currently being beaten by the United States and Britain, not for the sake of safeguarding international legitimacy but for oil. The objective behind this is to bring the Arabs to their knees and to place them once again under colonial hegemony.

These sources believe that the United States has come to the region to safeguard its strategic interests and not to protect anybody. Hence, the U.S. Administration is not qualified to untie the knots. As a matter of fact, it is qualified to play a subversive role and to bring about destruction, the sources said.

The sources added that Ahmad Bensouda, political adviser to the Moroccan monarch, recently met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and they agreed on a host of steps that would prepare the climate for the forthcoming summit. At the end of their meeting, 'Arafat left Tunis for a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for the same purpose.

The sources expressed the belief that the international community as begun to be aware of several realities

regarding the Gulf crisis. They added that there are is a change in the official and unofficial positions expressed and that this change must be carefully monitored to make it serve the objective Arab endeavors which seek to tackle the crisis.

The sources went on to say that the U.S. Administration has begun to be aware of the moves and attempts aimed at probing views and resolving inter-Arab disputes within an Arab context. This was behind the stepping up of pressure through the statements made by U.S. President George Bush and Margaret Thatcher who is beating the drums of war with American fingers, the sources said.

The diplomatic sources believe that the ball is now in the court of the Gulf states and that these states must show whether they have independent decisionmaking or whether this decisionmaking has become totally mortgaged to the U.S. position. They added: We are now at a crossroads. We face a possible explosion and consequently all-out devastation that might engulf all the Arabian Gulf states, or we can help render successful the efforts being made to convene an Arab summit in which the foundations of an Arab solution would be laid. Such a solution should be based on safeguarding the interests of all parties and establishing a link among all regional problems.

On war prospects, the sources said that the chances for war over the past week have been 45 percent against 55 percent. They added that these estimates have not changed regardless of U.S. and Israeli intentions, and in spite of Arab urgings—every six or seven hours—to launch a destructive air strike against Iraq. They went on to say that this noble Arab state will hold out and make the aggressors taste the bitterness of defeat if it were to become the target of aggression.

The sources said that the U.S. Administration does not want an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. They added that proof of this is that every day it comes up with new conditions for a settlement, the latest of which were the closure of Iraqi arms plants and the disbanding of half the Iraqi Army. They termed this as flagrant interference in national sovereignty that cannot be accepted by anybody.

On the PLO's position, a source very close to president Yasir 'Arafat said: We are faced with two options: either opposing the U.S. deployment of troops, or supporting this deployment. As for us, we cannot stand in the U.S. or Israeli trenches. We would rather die with men than suffer humiliation under the U.S. flag. We have decided to hold out or die as martyrs for the sake of future generations despite the fact that this will jeopardize the interests of 650,000 Palestinians in the Gulf states. At any rate, this is our position. We cannot be blamed for the nationalist and pan-Arab position we take.

The source added: President Yasir 'Arafat's role is not that of mediator. 'Arafat is presenting a host of ideas for a solution with a view to building an Arab front that supports a [political] solution. If Iraq had not established a link between the Gulf crisis and other Middle East issues, foremost among which is the Palestine question, we would have demanded such a linkage.

The source indicated that the Palestinian endeavors seek to find an Arab solution that would safeguard pan-Arab security, protect Iraq and the national issue, prevent any Arab regime from dropping support for the Palestinian peace initiative, and confront the attempts being made by the signatories to the Camp David accords to Arabize these accords.

The Arab diplomatic sources believe that the signals and hints given by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din a few days ago give the impression that there has been headway toward holding an Arab summit and give new impetus to an Arab solution.

The sources added: An Arab summit is coming. King Husayn's visit to the Sultanate of Oman and his European tour which began with a visit to France are a continuation of the Jordanian and Arab efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab context, especially after the disintegration of the unity of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and after the Paris Gorbachev-Mitterrand summit called for the convening of an Arab summit for a discussion of inter-Arab problems.

Concluding their analysis of the peace efforts currently under way to resolve the Gulf crisis, the sources said: An agreement by the Arabs [on the Gulf crisis] would strengthen them and qualify them to occupy a proper position on the map of international detente. Besides, this would make them partners in the current efforts to redraw the world's political map which is being reshaped. If the Arabs fail to exploit this opportunity, everybody will lose, including those who dream of obtaining gains from the United States.

League Official Views Inter-Arab Cooperation

PM0611123690 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 2 Nov 90 p 10

[Interview with Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran by Muhammad Bin-'Ammar in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bin-'Ammar] The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its threat have had a very negative impact on the Arab regional system. In your view, what is the solution to that crisis, and how can the Arab system be salvaged?

['Imran] This subject is being discussed now in several seminars in several places, and it is a very important one. I believe that the solution to the crisis requires an immediate return to the Arab League Charter (despite its shortcomings) and a return to the common commitments which unite our Arab states, first and foremost of which is the Arab defense pact.

Let me state clearly and frankly that the only thing what can end the crisis and pave the way to tackling the negative

aspects and shortcomings of the Arab system is Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with the Arab summit resolution and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait in accordance with the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Cairo to discuss the invasion.

All Arabs must recognize and believe that developments within any Arab state are the responsibility of that state's sons and must be carried out with their own free will, not forcibly or through military intervention. [passage omitted]

[Bin-'Ammar] In the past 10 years the Arab regional system has witnessed the birth of regional organizations among a number of Arab states. Are such groupings not a good thing within the context of the Arab system?

['Imran] I believe that these groupings resulted from the failure of the Arab system that exists through the Arab League to achieve the aspirations of the Arab states and peoples.

Regarding the Arab groupings, I will talk about two of them, namely, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]. As for the third, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], no one knows its fate.

In fact these regional Arab groupings do not legally constitute a challenge to or a violation of the Arab system or the Arab League, since Article IX of the Charter grants scope for any form of solidarity action between two or more Arab League member states. [passage omitted]

[Bin-'Ammar] What is your view of what people are saying about the foreign forces' presence, while ignoring the main issue, the occupation of Kuwait?

['Imran] From the viewpoint of the Arab system, no Arab citizen or leadership wants any foreign presence on his or its territory. That is, as long as the Arab body is in a healthy and natural condition, as reflected by respect for all Arab charters, and first and foremost, the Arab League Charter, the joint defense pact, and the various Arab resolutions. [passage omitted]

GCC's Bisharah Believes Military Only Solution

JN0711080490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 6 Nov (WAKH)—Mr. 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has said that the next GCC summit set for December in Doha will look into all aspects of the Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In statements published in the Qatari daily AL-RAYAH today, Bisharah said the summit will see its member states step up their political and military cooperation, and give a higher profile to security and national defense issues.

He has found from his contacts with GCC leaders that they are determined to tackle the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and work to bring it to an end.

Given an intransigent Iraqi regime that flies in the face of the will of the international community to withdraw from Kuwait, Bisharah was convinced that a solution to the Gulf crisis will not be possible short of the military option.

He expected James Baker's current tour in the region to yield positive results, promote a definitive solution to the Gulf crisis, and end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the GCC secretary general said he was disappointed by the outcome of the recent trip to the region by Primakov, President Gorbachev's special envoy to the region.

Bisharah reiterated that the GCC countries are not about to make any concessions to the Iraqi regime, emphasizing that a complete Iraqi withdrawal and the reinstatement of Kuwait's legitimate government are not subject to bargaining.

Asked why a GCC summit was not convened on the heels of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Bisharah said the possibility had been floated but shelved in preference to a more broad-based Arab approach.

He called the Arab world's split over the Gulf crisis a disaster, adding that the Gulf states are now relying on themselves and their friends in the Arab world and beyond.

GCC Finance Ministers Discuss Cooperation

JN0411074290 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Their excellencies the finance ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries and the governors of the central banks concluded the first working session of the GCC's Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee at the al-Bustan Palace Hotel at noon today.

The GCC finance ministers began their 26th meeting this morning under the chairmanship of His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, [Omani] deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi delivered a speech in which he said that the GCC's Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee meeting is taking place under the unusual circumstances the region is experiencing, which represent a test of the strength and cohesion of our countries to deal with crises. This requires that we rally our efforts, potentials, and resources to confront challenges wisely and with farsightedness.

His excellency added that the Committee is playing a positive and effective role in strengthening cooperation and bonds between our countries and peoples. It is entrusted with strengthening the confidence of the Gulf citizen in our GCC, which is considered the basic pillar of our good march.

Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs and the current chairman of the GCC's Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, noted in his speech that the Committee's agenda includes various subjects on which the Committee hopes to emerge with recommendations supporting the progress of joint action and affirming its cohesion and unity.

The meeting will discuss numerous issues dealing with the progress of joint economic action among the GCC states and the appropriate means to speed up the joint action steps, in addition to discussing the results of cooperation reached through negotiations among the GCC countries, the EEC, and other international economic groupings.

The final session is expected to be held this evening. This session will result in recommendations and resolutions regarding the subjects discussed during the meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

Leader Urges Caution After Kahana Assassination

JN0711092790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Nov 90 Second Edition pp 1, 11

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] In the first Palestinian reaction to the assassination of the extremist Kakh Movement leader Meir Kahana in the United States, Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said the assassination of Kahana by a person who has so far not been identified shows that there are people in the world today who watch the behavior of others and are good to those who behave well and bad to those who do not. He said people with free consciences cannot possibly allow the Palestinians to suffer more than they have at the hands of the Zionist occupation authorities and Israeli extremists.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the PNC speaker called on the Arabs in general and the Palestinian leaders in particular to be extremely cautious of the extremist faction, which has been trained at the hands of the terrorist Kahana and adopted his philosophy, because it might attempt to assassinate or harm some persons on the pretext of vengeance.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added that others too must learn the lesson of Kahana's fate, stop being extremist, and realize the consequences of their hostile actions against the Palestinians, who will remain steadfast on their land. He said: The people are looking for these extremists. Punishment also awaits them in our world and in the life hereafter, as well as from history and future generations.

Regarding the war of assassinations triggered by this incident, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: We are not advocates of a war of assassinations, which will only affect innocent people.

Jihad Al-Maqdis on Strike Orders in Case of War

JN0611194690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1707 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 6 Nov (INA)—Dr. Nadir al-Tamimi, official spokesman of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis, has asserted that the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis are closely linked.

In a news conference here today, Dr. al-Tamimi said: The one supplying our Zionist enemy with money, weapons, and political support is the same one assembling forces to strike at Iraq and the force of the Arab nation with the aim of protecting Israel from a real Arab force possessing the strength, means of deterrence, and ability to destroy it.

Dr. al-Tamimi stated that clear instructions have been given to the Islamic Jihad cadres operating in the West to strike at any foreign state that takes part in the aggression and buildup against Iraq.

He declared that with the first missile to be fired at the Zionist entity the Arab people will work to topple the regimes that have allied themselves with the Great Satan.

He condemned the methods used by the rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to buy the consciences and policies of governments, establishments, and organizations to cover the crimes of those rulers for allying with the enemies of God who are desecrating the holy places. He described Iraq's entry into Kuwait as a removal of a corrupt regime and the retrieval of land that had been torn away by British colonialism.

PLO To Intensify Resistance in Territories

LD0611190690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has called for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider the dangerous situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, the information adviser of the brother leader, President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], said that the organization will ask the Security Council to send an international force to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli terrorism and to institute sanctions against Israel until it withdraws from the occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242.

He added: We have unambiguously decided to intensify the resistance in all of occupied Palestine until the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier. Therefore, we will use all weapons at our disposal.

PLO's Qaddumi Says U.S. Evading Mideast Peace

JN0311150190 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, Nov 3, INA—Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department said that the United States does not want the Arabs to possess any deterrent basically because it wants to maintain Israel's superiority in the region.

Speaking in the course of an interview with the Iraqi AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper published here today, Mr Qaddumi added that the United States was still manipulating and attempting to evade a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis and its central Palestinian issue.

Mr Qaddumi added that available information with the PLO indicate that Israel is implementing a policy focussed on evicting the Palestinian people from their territories to absorb the Jewish emmigrants coming from the Soviet Union.

The PLO official stressed the importance of restoring the eastern front to deter the Israeli aggression and that there is a need for a clear position vis-a-vis American troops in the Gulf and attempting to convince other parties to provide the opportunity for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Mr Qaddumi further expressed hope that all Arab parties would call for an Arab meeting on any level to discuss pan-Arab security and reaching a settlement to the Gulf crisis and to gradually raising the level of these meetings to an Arab summit for adopting a suitable decision that would contribute to defuse explosion and eliminating tension that prevailed in Arab relations after aggressive Israeli intentions have become clear to the Arab brethren.

The PLO official stressed that the organization would work to uncover the role of the United States in obstructing resolutions of the Security Council adopted on the Palestine issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He further said that the PLO exerts utmost efforts to provide all required potentials for backing steadfastness of Palestinians inside the occupied territories and provide the political circumstances to boost and intensify their just struggle despite the Israeli oppression.

The Palestinian official further pointed out that the United States in an attempt to avoid its impasse, tried to demonstrate a flexible attitude when it endorsed Security Council resolution 672 which did not include the dispatching of a mission from the Security Council to the occupied territories on a fact-finding trip.

He further disclosed America's attempts to offer false claims by accepting future international measures while at the same time dispatches military troops to the Gulf region in the name of international legitimacy for implementing its imperialist policy which was clearly indicated in its warning to the Arab countries before convening the Arab summit in Baghdad last May.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Primakov Visit, U.S. 'Promises'

JN0211236390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[Report by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, yesterday said that there is still a chance for a joint initiative by France, the Soviet Union, and China with support from the EC and nonaligned states. He said the essence of this initiative will be the final exclusion of the war option and search for a balanced political solution to the Gulf crisis.

'Abd-Rabbuh was talking to a number of journalists after his return from an official visit to Baghdad during which he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and a number of Iraqi officials.

'Abd-Rabbuh described the Soviet stand and the Soviet president's statements in Moscow on the need to give the Arab solution a chance as an expression of a "realistic" stand. He affirmed, however, that the full responsibility should not be shouldered by the Arabs alone as there are commitments to be shouldered by the international powers which should play their role in resolving the region's problems, especially the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Abd-Rabbuh said Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov's recent visit to Baghdad was not only successful but achieved important success in that for the first time dialogue was opened on the components of a political solution and viewpoints were exchanged on the essential issues concerning this solution. He said Paris and Moscow now know that Iraq is prepared to remove the pretext that the United States is using regarding the situation of foreigners in Iraq. He referred to Iraq's readiness to allow all Western nationals in Iraq to leave in return for French-Soviet guarantees to ward off the specter of war and not to take part in aggression against Iraq.

He said the PLO affirmed to Primakov and earlier to French envoys that no formula for a solution would be successful unless it guarantees an actual and political linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. He affirmed that this linkage is an "objective issue and not an Iraqi or Palestinian creation. Guaranteeing peace and stability in the region and reaching arms reduction agreements or a ban on the proliferation of certain weapons cannot be achieved without solving some major issues, headed by the Palestine question, and without the inclusion of Israel in such agreements in the first place."

The Palestinian official asked: "How can Iraq or any other Arab country possibly accept any security proposals and future arrangements without first guaranteeing the warding off of the Israeli threat to it?" Therefore, he said, the linkage cannot be excluded and the U.S. promises cannot be accepted.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that these U.S. promises, conveyed by Primakov for the second time to the Iraqi leadership, stipulate searching for a solution to the Middle East problem after the solution of the Gulf crisis. He said this U.S. position "clearly indicates that Washington's true plan is to strike at Iraq's strength and maintain and even enhance Israeli power."

He affirmed that the Iraqi and Palestinian position stipulates that when treatment of the Gulf crisis begins, an international peace conference should begin and should be attended by the PLO. He said: "There is no other alternative. We frankly say that we are not dealing with Kuwait as a hostage pending the solution of the Palestine question at all, but the Kuwait and Gulf crisis has ignited all the problems in the region, including the excessive wealth and the exacerbating poverty."

On Primakov's mission, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Primakov's shuttle mission has opened a dialogue between Iraq and a number of international parties with the aim of reaching a political solution. Iraq demanded Soviet and French guarantees for warding off the danger of a war and for working to establish a linkage between the solution of the region's problems and the Gulf crisis. The Soviet envoy, however, did not give the Iraqi leadership a clear position on these issues when he paid his second visit to Iraq. 'Abd-Rabbuh, nevertheless, indicated that opening the door of dialogue with Iraq and the states concerned in the dispute is a success in itself and opens the door for further progress toward a peaceful solution.

'Abd-Rabbuh hoped that international stands will develop toward boosting the peace process. He said there is still a chance for the launching of a peaceful initiative by the Soviet Union, France, and China, which are three UN Security Council member states. He said dialogue is continuing with Iraq on a number of political issues. He said this is a preparatory and very important stage for the development and expansion of dialogue.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that there is an agreement between these parties and Iraq on the need for an Arab solution, but there is also an international role parallel to the Arab role in achieving peace. The two solutions are complementary; the international community should start action to resolve the Palestine question while the Gulf crisis should be resolved within an Arab framework. He said this was the content of the Palestinian message that the Palestinian envoy carried to his leadership, and which was also communicated to the French president, the Chinese leadership, and a number of friendly European states. There are mutual and complementary Arab and international commitments which should also be linked. He said a larger number of Western states now acknowledge linkage in the region's crises.

The Palestinian official warned of the gravity of the military option, noting that Iraqi preparations to repulse any aggression are completed and the entire region will explode if an aggression takes place against Iraq.

He said that the recent Syrian statements indicate Syrian understanding of the gravity of the situation and that if a war erupts it will engulf the entire region and will not be confined to one state only.

Fatah Representative on Continuation of Uprising

NC0211163490 Cairo MENA in English 1446 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (MENA)—Fatah representative here Zuhdi al-Qidrah today said that the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands represents a strong evidence that the Palestinian people was determined to adhere to its right to self-determination.

In statement on the occasion marking the Balfour Declaration anniversary of 1917 the Palestinian official said that Britain has now a chance to correct its crime by supporting the right of the Palestinian people.

He further urged the world community to provide a world protection for the Palestinian people against the Israeli oppressive practices.

Algeria

Former Prime Minister Forms Political Party

LD0611120190 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 6 Nov (APS)—The Algerian Movement for Justice and development, the party of former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah, lodged its request for recognition to the Interior Ministry yesterday afternoon. Mr. Kasdi Merbah pointed out in a statement to the press the foundations and aims of his party, which draws its framework from Islam with the use of ijtihad [interpretation of religious dogmas]; the consecration of the Algerian personality, which is based upon Islam, Arabism, and Amazighism [Berbers call themselves Amazigh—Freemen]; and the need to build a democratic state whose constitution and laws reflect the true aspirations of Algerians to territorial integrity, basic freedoms, and social justice. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Giving Iraq More Time for Solution

NC0611192690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has asked that more time be allowed to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully instead of resorting to the military option. During his meeting today with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt favors giving Iraq a limited golden opportunity to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, although he did not object to using the military option in case [words indistinct] fails.

Official Refutes Reports on Kahana's Assassin

NC0711162090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Major General Ahmad Za'tar, assistant interior minister for civilians affairs, has stated that no Egyptian citizen born in Port Said bears the name Sa'id al-Nusayr. This is the name of the person who reportedly assassinated opposition KAKH Movement Leader Rabbi Meir Kahana in a central Manhattan hotel yesterday.

In a statement to MENA, Maj. Gen. Za'tar added that a check through documents in the citizens registration department in Port Said revealed that 17 Egyptian citizens living in Port Said bear the name "Sayyid Nusayr." They were born in different districts in Port Said, but none of them had immigrated to the United States.

In another development, Major General 'Imad-al-Din al-Bisli, assistant foreign minister for passports, immigration, and nationality, has stated that a list of citizens who left the country in 1981 has been checked. The check revealed that no Egyptian citizen bearing the name Sa'id al-Nusayr had left the country for the United States of America.

In a statement to MENA, Maj. Gen. al-Bisli added that all records of citizens who had left the country's different ports since 1981 have been checked and that no Egyptian citizen bearing that name had immigrated to the United States.

These statements refute news agency reports that the Israeli rabbi's assassin is an Egyptian citizen born in Port Said, who left Cairo in 1981 to the United States to live in New Jersey.

PRC Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0711104590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0929 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Chinese President Yang Shangkun. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen conveyed the message to President Mubarak when they met today. The Chinese foreign minister stated this after the meeting which he said was useful, and that they had exchanged detailed views, especially on the Gulf situation.

He expressed his country's appreciation for the role and efforts exerted by Egypt and President Mubarak to deal with the situation in the Gulf. He said: President Mubarak supports my mission and hopes that I will convince Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whom I will meet soon, of the reality of the current situation.

Asked whether China will oppose a UN Security Council resolution in support of war, he said that UN Security Council resolutions have so far not dealt with this issue, noting that should such an issue be raised the matter will require detailed discussions.

He asserted that China's stand calls for exerting all efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict and that efforts will concentrate on avoiding the use of force and engaging in war, a stand that is harmonious with the interests of all the parties involved.

Commentary Views Iraqi Fear, Weakness

NC0611210790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1040 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "Does Saddam Think the Rope Is a Snake?"]

[Text] When the Iraqi information minister, with the effrontery of one who is defending wrong against right, says that Iraq will not withdraw from Kuwait and that the annexation of an independent Arab country is irreversible, it is a direct reply to those who are misled by the Iraqi president's maneuvers, which are designed only to gain time with the hope that unforeseen circumstances will allow him to get away with his spoils. This blindly obstinate statement is also a direct reply to those were dragged along behind Saddam Husayn's miscalculated

adventure with the hope of sharing in the spoils. Thirdly, the Iraqi information minister's statement is a response to those who believe that the crisis can be resolved within an Arab framework.

Those who observe the events rapidly unfolding in the Gulf and elsewhere in connection with the Kuwait issue, can, by comprehensively analyzing the implications of the crisis, realize what a grave predicament the Iraqi regime is experiencing. This regime is manipulating the Western hostage card by occasionally releasing some hostages in an attempt to crack the solidarity of the international front that is tightening the noose around Iraq. It finds itself, however, facing a united international stand that rejects such blackmail, insists on total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and refuses any compromises or partial solutions on the grounds that the aggressor must not be rewarded.

The Iraqi regime is digging trenches and raising high ramparts on the Kuwaiti-Saudi border to prevent a surprise attack by the multinational forces trying to liberate Kuwait. This means that the Iraqi forces are adopting defensive, not offensive, positions. At the same time, Saddam Husayn is threatening to attack the Arab countries who are part of the multinational forces standing at the ready in the Gulf. Although the Arab countries—confident of their military capabilities, which Saddam Husayn came to know well during the Iraq-Iran war—do not heed these vacuous threats, it is still perfectly clear that the Iraqi regime fears the multinational forces and knows how strong they are. At the same time, he is trying to secure his military presence in Kuwait.

Despite this obvious contradiction between the words and the deeds of the Iraqi regime's officials, despite the tangled web of events, an important fact surfaces: Iraq is not a huge monster that can frighten anyone. The exaggerated reports about Iraq's prowess are merely a thick veil of illusion woven by those around Saddam Husayn in a desperate attempt to delay military action as long as possible. This does not, however, overshadow another fact; namely, that Baghdad's ruler, by his own admission, already knows that he will lose if war breaks out. Still, he does not want to back down from his occupation of Kuwait. This means he wants to commit suicide with full premeditation. He will not only kill himself, but his entire regime and the Iraqi land and people.

For this reason, Egypt, by contacting Arab and international parties, is providing the greatest amount of time possible in the hope that peace efforts will produce results in line with Arab and international legitimacy and spare Iraq and the Arab nation the calamities of a war more destructive than Iraq's war against Iran, which Iraq survived only with the greatest difficulty. Baghdad should not, however, interpret this as hesitation. The only interpretation is that the world is being patient and self-restrained, but will not accept a challenge by a ruler trying to impose aggression and occupation by force of arms.

To some in Baghdad who call for negotiation and to those who straddle the fence and repeat this call, we say that negotiations will only take place after an immediate and total withdrawal from Kuwait.

If now, three months after his sinful crime against a fraternal country, Saddam Husayn were to make a simple mathematical calculation of his profit and loss, he would discover that his action will lead to certain loss. Instead of annexing Kuwait and pillaging its possessions, he will lose Iraq—people, homeland, and possessions. He will not remain in power a single day after that.

We tell the Iraqi information minister: A sense of shame is an Arab quality. We would have thought that, in your capacity as spokesman for Staff Field Marshall Saddam, you would announce that Iraq, which conceded its territory and waters in the Shatt al-'Arab, has decided to withdraw from Kuwait in order to prevent Arab bloodshed and that it has also decided to demand the return of the three occupied islands: Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa [seized by Iran from the United Arab Emirates in 1971] because they are Arab territories. Does he not profess pan-Arabism and speak of the great showdown? He has said neither this nor that. Hence, we tell him: You will leave Kuwait—voluntarily or by force.

Cairo Papers Comment on Baker's Tour

NC0711080690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Cairo newspapers underline the importance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's brief tour of the region during which he is discussing ways of handling the Gulf crisis.

The papers describe the tour as part of the preparations for U.S. President George Bush's first visit to the region, where approximately a quarter of a million U.S. ground, naval, and air troops have been deployed in addition to other Arab and international forces. This troop deployment is aimed at bolstering legitimacy and finding suitable means to implement the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In an editorial entitled "The Significance and Timing of Baker's Visit," AL-AKHBAR says that all recent signs and indications suggest that James Baker's visit to the region may be the last before the zero hour that has been agreed upon ushers in the end to the tragedy that began with Saddam Husayn's invasion of the State of Kuwait.

The paper says that President Bush's dispatch of his secretary of state on this brief tour indicates that the U.S. President has arrived at an important and decisive conclusion concerning the ending of the Gulf crisis and the restoration of peace and tranquillity to the region.

In an editorial entitled "Reasserting Principled Stands," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Egypt and the United States hold the same views on the need to support international legitimacy and to find suitable means to

implement the UN Security Council resolutions, while concentrating on peaceful means in view of the grave consequences of the military option and the threat of destruction this entails.

The paper refers to the coordination of U.S. and Egyptian efforts and says that such coordination is the result of Egypt's standing and vital role as well as the effective action Egypt has taken since the crisis erupted last August. Egypt, the paper says, has taken steps to defend right and legitimacy, including dispatching several Armed Forces units to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These units, the paper adds, are currently deployed in these countries and are fully prepared to defend them against any possible attack.

The paper concludes by saying that the talks between President Mubarak and Baker confirmed these principled stands and gave a considerable boost to the persistent and unrelenting efforts to save the region from destruction. The talks, the paper says, reflected the eagerness to restore legitimacy to Kuwait and uphold international ethical principles.

More on AL-AKHBAR Editorial

NC0711082490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 7 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The Significance and Timing of Baker's Visit," AL-AKHBAR says all recent signs and indications suggest that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current tour of a number of capitals, including Cairo, Riyadh, Moscow, and others, may be his [as heard] last trip to the region before the zero hour which has been agreed upon ushers in the end of the tragedy that began when Saddam Husayn invaded the Arab State of Kuwait and that quickly developed into an international crisis unprecedented since the end of World War II and the disappearance of the specters of Hitler and Mussolini from the international stage.

The paper adds that Baker, who is the U.S. President's right-hand man in foreign policy, especially in the Gulf, is visiting these capitals as U.S. congressional elections are under way. These elections, the paper notes, are of great importance to the governing Republican Party which is exerting all efforts to improve the standing of Republicans in the Senate and the House of Representatives, where the Democrats have a majority.

The paper goes on to say that President Bush's dispatch of his secretrary of state on this brief tour indicates that the U.S. President has reached an important and decisive conclusion concerning the ending of the Gulf crisis and the restoration of peace and tranquillity to the region. What gives a special importance to Baker's talks with Arab and European leaders is that they are to pave the way for U.S. President George Bush's first trip to the region. Approximately 250,000 troops from his country's ground, naval, and air forces have been massed in this region, in addition to a huge number of troops from Arab and other countries. Undoubtedly, the paper notes, these forces look forward to a conclusive decision paving the way for their return to their countries.

Writer Views Soviet Stand on War, Baker Tour

NC0611185390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 6 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rivalry of Allies in the Gulf Crisis," Mahfuz al-Ansari writes in AL-JUMHURIYAH about one feature of the current maneuver in the Gulf crisis, which is passing through a difficult and delicate phase, and about the attempts purporting to seek a solution through interpretations that appear different and contradictory but are in fact various aspects of the same thing and the same stance.

The writer expresses the view that the U.S. secretary of state's current tour, during which he will meet with Egyptian, Soviet, French, Saudi, Chinese, Syrian, and other officials, is a U.S. attempt, carried out by Baker, to coordinate the allies' positions without one-upmanship and maneuvering.

In this connection, the article notes that Soviet envoy Primakov's remarks reached a dead end calling for an Arab solution when the Iraqi president has dealt Arab unity and solidarity a blow. For this reason, Soviet statements calling for an Arab impossibility and professing optimism can only be interpreted through the perspective of the Soviet method of dealing with the crisis.

The writer explains that the USSR knows the crisis is currently moving along the path toward a military confrontation, and for this reason the USSR wants to impose itself as a partner to the undertaking by seeking to make the decision to go to war an international one adopted by the UN Security Council in line with Article 42 of the UN Charter. In this context, permanent Security Council members will have the right to participate fully in the international and regional arrangements.

The writer remarks that on this basis we can understand the significance of Baker's current tour.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0711114590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Polyakov at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah this morning. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

The Soviet ambassador said after the meeting that there are no differences between Egypt and the Soviet Union concerning the Gulf crisis, and that his meeting with President Mubarak falls within the context of the continuous consultations between Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev.

He pointed out that the Soviet Union fully understands Egypt's role in the Gulf events and that, therefore, the two countries are exchanging views in this respect.

He asserted that Moscow is committed to the full and unconditional implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions and that the positions of the Soviet Union and the international community are identical. He said that the Soviet Union stresses the need to implement the Security Council resolutions first, and that other issues relating to the situation in the Middle East could be discussed later.

Replying to a question on whether Moscow believes that the Gulf crisis can be resolved peacefully, he said that Moscow and all the Arab countries seek a peaceful solution to this issue and that he thinks that no one is advocating a military solution to the Gulf conflict.

Mubarak Holds Talks With Zairian President

NC0711125290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a session of talks with Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, who is currently visiting Cairo, at the al-Qubbah Palace today.

They discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts exerted to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

They also discussed the current African issues, foremost of which are border problems and African debts.

The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and develop these ties in various spheres.

Omani Information Minister Visits Cairo

Meets With Al-Baz

NC0711053590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, who is currently visiting Cairo, met today with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Egypt and talks with President Husni Mubarak. They also discussed coordination between Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman in general, and regarding the Gulf crisis in particular.

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0711110790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah this morning. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

The Omani minister said that President Mubarak asked him to convey a message to Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id dealing with Arab and international contacts on the regional situation in general and their ideas and views on joint Arab action in the future.

Departs 7 Nov

NC0711112890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas left Cairo at noon today at the end of a visit of several days. During the visit he was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Belgian Defense Minister Coeme Departs Cairo

NC0711100190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0853 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning at the end of a six-day official visit to Egypt.

uring his stay, the Belgian minister held talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production. At these talks, they agreed that both countries would form committees to pursue talks concerning military cooperation between Egypt and Belgium in the fields of training, armaments, and joint military production of small weapons and spare parts for the multipurpose F-16 aircraft, as well as the exchange of military expertise.

The Belgian minister also discussed with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, ways to promote and develop cooperation between the two countries, as well as the Gulf situation.

He was seen off by Staff Lieutenant General Mahmud Fu'ad, commander of the Central Military Zone.

Soviet Maritime Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC0411184390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Leonid Nedyak, deputy Soviet minister of the maritime fleet, arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a delegation to attend the meetings of the ninth session of the joint Soviet-Egyptian committee on maritime transport. The session opens in Alexandria tomorrow and lasts one week.

On arrival, Nedyak said that discussions at these meetings will deal with the possibility of developing the maritime lines for the transport of goods in light of the growth in bilateral trade. He noted that the trade volume between the two countries has reached 1.5 million tons

annually. He expressed hope that the volume of transport will reach its past levels. He said that the two sides had signed an agreement according to which a maritime line was opened in June.

Arab League's Al-As'ad Leaves for Tunis

NC0611131790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1144 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Acting Arab League Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad left Cairo for Tunis this afternoon for talks on the completion of the Arab League's transfer to Cairo based on the League's resolutions in March and September.

The Arab League officially began its work from Cairo last Saturday [3 November].

Senior Source Denies Secret Agreement on Debts

JN0411193490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Nov 90 p 15

[From the unattributed "The Truth" column: "Nonexistent Agreement"]

[Text] A responsible senior source has categorically denied a recent opposition paper report under the headline: "Serious Egyptian Commitments in Exchange for Writing Off Military Debts," which claims that the U.S. Senate's approval of the resolution to cancel Egyptian debts followed the Egyptian Government's acceptance of a secret military agreement. The paper alleged that the agreement stipulates, among other things, the immediate confrontation by the Egyptian Armed Forces of any security threats to U.S. interests in the Gulf region.

The senior source deplored these allegations, which he described as absolutely baseless. He said the cancelation of the $7.1 billion was effected following the passing of a bill that was open and with no secret clauses attached to it. Moreover, Egypt would not accept an obligation that implies trusteeship or the violation of its known policy. The responsible senior source drew attention to President Mubarak's repeated assertions after his return from his recent Gulf tour; namely, that preserving the Gulf region's security is first and foremost an Arab issue of concern to the region's states themselves, and that Egypt does not interfere in this region unless it is asked to do so because it does not impose its will on anyone.

Swedish Government To Extend $10 Million Grant

NC0611125690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1051 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—It was learned today that the Swedish Government has decided to allocate a U.S. $10 million grant to Egypt through the World Bank in cooperation with the UN Development Program. This grant by the Swedish Government symbolizes its support for Egypt's policy and compensates Egypt for its losses as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Arab Fund Gives Sugar Company $26 Million Loan

NC0611100190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0848 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—The Arab Development Fund has agreed to allocate $26 million in a soft loan to Egypt to finance a new industrial project at the Egyptian Sugar and Distillation Company's factories at Idfu in upper Egypt. The loan will help boost pulpwood production to three times the current output, estimated at about 20,000 tons, with investments reaching 120 million [Egyptian] pounds. [passage omitted]

Libya

Sudanese Official Notes Hospitable Visit

LD0311205490 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Al-Harth [November] 3 (JANA)—General al-Zibayr Muhammad Salih, the Sudanese deputy prime minister and deputy of the Revolutionary Command Council, expressed his thanks and gratitude to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the warm and hospitable welcome extended to him and the delegation in his company during their visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a message to the leader of the revolution he [words indistinct] Great Jamahiriyah General al-Zibayr Muhammad Salih said "I take this good opportunity to express our sincere determination and desire to go on the path of the will of the masses in realisation of the aspirations of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan for progress, development and prosperity [words indistinct] of total Arab unity. He expressed [words indistinct] to the leader of the revolution and the people of Great Jamahiriyah for further progress and prosperity [words indistinct].

Sudan

Commissioner Addresses Food Security Meeting

EA0611151690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 November (SUNA)— Commissioner of the national capital, Brigadier Muhammad 'Uthman M. Sa'id, has affirmed yesterday that there are more than a million and seven hundred feddan fertile areas in the national capital, pointing out that only [word indistinct] of these areas were cultivated.

Addressing the first meeting of the national capital's food security, the commissioner said that it aims to provide food for the national capital, stressing that all these lands would be cultivated and that any agricultural land in the national capital which had not been utilized would be confiscated. The meeting, which was also addressed by the agricultural affairs commissioner, was attended by the chairman of the revolution command council [RCC], General 'Umar al-Bashir and member of the RCC and chairman of the economic committee, Colonel Salah al-Din al-Karrar and some ministers.

Kuwait

Heir Apparent Asserts Military Solution to Crisis

JN0711091690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0635 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 7 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has affirmed that a military operation is the only way to liberate Kuwait and restore the legitimate government, stressing that the Iraqi regime rejects a peaceful solution by challenging the will of the international community.

In a press interview conducted by Nabil al-Hamar, editor in chief of the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM, and published in today's issue, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd said that the peace option is now behind us and the military option lies before us. He said that it is Iraq that has rejected the peaceful solution by challenging the will of the international community and continuing to kill and torture the Kuwaiti people and other foreign nationals in Kuwait.

He noted that the contacts and consultations over the past three months have not produced anything that might lead to a peaceful solution. In this regard, he denied that Soviet envoy Primakov had conveyed to the Kuwaiti leadership any Iraqi proposal to withdraw from Kuwait on condition that it retain the Warbah and Bubiyan Islands and the al-Rumaylah oil field.

The Kuwait heir apparent said decisively: The Soviet envoy did not convey any such proposal to us, and if he had done so, we would have rejected it.

Asked about the Soviet president's proposal for holding an Arab summit, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd said: In our view, there is no need for a new Arab summit because it will be useless. In his statement, his highness hailed Bahrain—amir, government, and people—for its honest support for its Kuwaiti brothers. He said: We will never forget the honest support that has epitomized the brotherly relations between the two countries' leaderships and peoples. He added: In fact, we are one people. The current ordeal has proved the brotherliness not only between Bahrain and Kuwait, but also between Kuwait and every Arabian Gulf state. Their support for us is a debt which we hope we will soon be able to repay.

In his comprehensive statement to the AL-AYYAM newspaper, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd said that the contacts and consultations which followed the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have resulted in two realities. The first is the Iraqi regime's continued occupation and challenge to the will of the Arab nation represented in the Cairo summit resolution, to the Islamic nation represented in the statement issued by the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, and to the will of the international community represented in the 10 resolutions issued by the UN Security Council. All this calls for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from all the Kuwaiti territories and for the restoration of the legitimate government in Kuwait.

The second reality is that the contacts and consultations held over the past three months indicate that the whole world—east, west, north, and south—rejects and condemns the Iraqi invasion and occupation of the State of Kuwait and that the international community insists on ending the Iraqi occupation and restoring the legitimate Kuwaiti Government either peacefully or through war. The world stresses its determination to defeat evil and aggression represented by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and the world will do everything to achieve that goal.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent noted that the Iraqi regime's intransigence and exposed maneuvers to gain time have only reinforced the world's determination to end the occupation and defeat aggression and the Iraqi aggressors.

His highness added: From time to time, the Iraqi regime comes out with initiatives, proposals, and useless plans to distract attention from the crime of its occupation of Kuwait and the displacement of its people, and tries to draw the world into fabricated and secondary issues like selling oil free of charge, the movement of the embassies, and the hostages issue, which the Iraqi regime is exploiting in a very bad way.

His highness said that the world takes a cynical view of these evil and exposed attempts, and no longer takes them seriously. He said these attempts have increased the international community's determination to end the Iraqi occupation and defeat the aggression and the aggressor.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah affirmed that the Kuwaiti leadership will offer everything possible to the Kuwaiti people inside Kuwait in order to promote their steadfastness, that they continue their struggle and resist the aggressors. He added: We are always with them and feel their pain and suffering. We also hail their steadfastness and heroism and we will make every effort to assist them and strengthen their steadfastness.

Asked about the outcome of the Kuwaiti popular conference in Jeddah last month, his highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: The popular conference was successful in all criteria and on all levels. The conference proved to the whole world that the Kuwaiti people are one family and that ordeals and difficulties only promote their cohesion and cooperation.

The outcome of the conference was a clear message to the world that the Kuwaitis are determined to continue struggle until they liberate the entire homeland from the treacherous Iraqi invasion.

His highness said that a general secretariat of the popular conference was formed and that working committees are being set up to assume their duties soon and work along with the government, God willing. Popular delegations

will also visit fraternal and friendly countries all over the world, including the permanent member states of the Security Council.

Regarding Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for holding an Arab summit, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: Undoubtedly, President Mikhail Gorbachev, who knows all aspects of the current issue, is making every effort to avoid a destructive war, whose first victims will be the Iraqi Army and people. This war will not be confined to Iraq alone. The Iraqi president's rejection of the international community's will indicates his failure to realize the seriousness of the situation as well as his indifference to the war's possible disasters and destruction of the Iraqi people.

In our view, he added, there is no need or use for a new Arab summit. An Arab summit was held in Cairo on 10 August. That summit decided to condemn the Iraqi invasion and occupation and it announced the need for the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government. The Iraqi regime's president has to adopt the Arab solution, and there is no need or use for a new Arab summit because the Arab solution is there.

Asked about individual initiatives to mediate over the hostages in Iraq, his highness said: The Iraqi regime has held foreign nationals hostage to exploit them for its evil purposes. However, we understand the humanitarian motives of some former politicians in their endeavor to release some of these hostages. In our view, this bad exploitation of the hostages will harm the Iraqi regime itself and will increase the world's anger over that regime's practices.

Replying to a question on security guarantees for Kuwait and the region following the Iraqi withdrawal or after the crisis, his highness stressed the need for certain arrangements to protect the region's security from this aggression, expressing his belief that such arrangements should be made in consultation with the Gulf Cooperation Council and all the brothers and friends.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent also voiced his optimism about an imminent liberation and return to the homeland, affirming that right will prevail and wrong will be removed. He added that the invaders will leave Kuwait defeated and the Kuwaiti people will return victorious with God's help.

Asked about the failure of many Arab initiatives, mediations, and calls and about what the Iraqi regime relies on to go on rejecting the world's call for a withdrawal from Kuwait, his highness affirmed that the Iraqi regime does not rely on anything but is gambling with the fate of its people and is ignoring the possible disaster and annihilation that will result from war.

His highness also said his country's firm position is based on the complete implementation of the resolutions of the Arab summit and the Security Council calling for an unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from all the Kuwaiti territories as well as on the restoration of the legitimate government. He stressed that anything short of this demand is unacceptable.

At the end of his statement, his highness said: Our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council have spared no effort to support Kuwait in the face of the sinful Iraqi invasion and aggression, to host their Kuwaiti brothers, and welcome the Kuwaiti citizens in their houses and hearts. We thank them all very much.

Amir Addresses Expatriate Citizens

LD0611235690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Address to Kuwaiti citizens living outside Kuwait by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; place and date not given; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message"—recorded]

[Text] Honorable sons of the homeland, those whom necessity has forced out of Kuwait. Your responsibilities today are no less than those of your brethren within [Kuwait]. As circumstances do not permit you to participate with them in confronting the aggression, then the least you can do is to prove to them and to the world that you are with them, supporting them with your (?efforts) and the capabilities available to you, and assisting their steadfastness in order to achieve victory, God willing.

No doubt you are aware that you are in a land that is not yours, a country that is not your country. Therefore, we should express our gratitude to all the leaders, governments, and peoples of the states which hosted you, opened their doors to you, and provided you with all the necessary facilities in order to give you security and assurance. Therefore, as we have always promised you, the least that Kuwait could do is to represent itself appropriately by honoring the traditions, laws, and conventions of those states. It should act as one in endeavoring to liberate the homeland [words indistinct].

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Speaks on Baker's Departure

Indicates Support for UN

LD0611195690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Remarks by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the departure from Saudi Arabia of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport on 6 November—read by announcer; recorded]

[Text] His Excellency the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Jeddah this morning after a visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, the ambassador to the United

States; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom Mr. Charles Freeman.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, explained that the talks that took place yesterday with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker dealt with the treacherous Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait.

In response to a journalist's question during the departure of the U.S. secretary of state, his highness said: We did not come here to discuss the military option. We discussed the usefulness of the UN resolutions and recommendations and ways to act collectively in implementing those resolutions and recommendations.

His highness added: We explained that we oppose the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and in this we are in the company of the international community which has stood against that aggression.

His highness went on: We also support the resolutions of the UN which demanded the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and which denounced Iraqi aggression and which demanded that it should be ended.

In answer to a question on the extent of the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the use of force to evict Iraq from Kuwait, his highness said that the UN resolution, in Article 72, is clear and affirms the international community's opposition to the annexation of territory by force, and it calls for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces unconditionally from Kuwait. He said: This resolution does not place any restrictions on any action which the UN takes to realize this objective. From this platform the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the UN resolutions.

Baker Press Conference Reported

LD0611232290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2240 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] At a news conference held yesterday [6 November] in Jeddah before leaving the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the conclusion of his visit, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said: The time we spent with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz was marked by complete openness. I felt the extent of the clear congruence between our two countries' views.

He said that there was agreement on the question of the command and control of the forces in a way that was very satisfactory and convincing to the Saudi and the U.S. Governments. He said the joint command that currently exists will continue, and there will be specific ways to deal with matters pertaining to the defense of the Kingdom and other ways to deal with matters that take place outside the Kingdom.

He added: There is joint understanding and agreement on the question of defending the Kingdom. He went on to say: The Kingdom and the United States are satisfied with the understanding reached regarding the question of command and control. He pointed out that these understandings and arrangements differed regarding matters pertaining to the defense of the Kingdom from those pertaining to what might occur outside the Kingdom.

Fahd Congratulates Gorbachev on National Day

LD0711111490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz has cabled USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of his country's national day.

The king, may God preserve him, expressed in the name of the Saudi people and government and himself, his utmost heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the good health of President Gorbachev and constant progress and prosperity for the Soviet people.

Foreign Minister Meets With Hungarian Official

LD0411193190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1637 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Nov (SPA)—The Saudi foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this afternoon received the under-secretary of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, Tamas Katona. Discussions during the meeting covered matters of common interest and a review of the current situation in the Arab gulf.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary for Political Affairs 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri and the director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Department, Ambassador Ma'mun Kurdi.

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry under-secretary arrived in Jeddah earlier today. He was welcomed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by the chief of protocol of the Saudi Foreign Ministry, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Nuwaysir.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Meets U.S. Official, Kuwait Envoy

JN0711120690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Dubayy, 6 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al- Maktum, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of defense, this morning met with Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UAE Muhammad Sa'ud Zabin al-Lammi'. The situation in the region was discussed during the meeting.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum also met with U.S. Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security Sheldon Krys who arrived in Dubayy this morning at the head of a U.S. delegation on a visit to the UAE, during which he will hold talks with officials in the Dubayy police command on cooperation between the Dubayy police and the U.S. security organs and police.

Yemen

Salih Says Saudi Measures Damaged Relations

JN0611201390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC], attended an expanded meeting held by GPC leaders and members in the capital's municipal offices today. The meeting was held under the slogan "Popular Participation on the Path of Democracy, Development, and Yemeni Unity." The brother president delivered an important speech, in which he pointed out that the GPC includes members from the various governorates in our young republic. He said that the GPC's political experience would be evaluated to make it more effective, and that the members should honestly comply with and interact in the GPC's activity and abandon duality.

He said that the GPC members have great duties and responsibilities to materialize GPC goals and political program and to promote its role in serving society's issues, contributing to the progress of the people and the homeland, and preserving and promoting all the gains and achievements of the Yemeni revolution.

The brother president touched on the region's situation, reaffirming our country's firm and principled position on the Gulf crisis as well as its efforts to solve the crisis peacefully and within the Arab framework. He warned against the military option to solve the crisis—an option that will cause disastrous destruction to the region and force it to face an ominous and unknown future.

The brother president said that hostile media campaigns against our country are aimed at distorting its policies and pressuring the Republic of Yemen into changing its principled positions. He declared that developments will prove Yemen's credibility and objectivity because it embodies Arab aspirations to preserving the Arab nation's higher interests, security, and independence. He said that our country will not be drawn into the media campaigns and polemics launched by the Saudi media against our country. He stressed that these campaigns will harm their source rather than Yemen, which will continue to refrain from replying to such misleading campaigns. He urged our media organs to seek truth and objectivity and to avoid being drawn into the delusions of some Saudi Arabian media.

The brother president pointed that the Saudi Government's arbitrary measures against our citizens in the kingdom have caused severe damage to the brotherly relations between the two fraternal and neighboring people and have left deep wounds that cannot be easily healed. He declared that the return of thousands of citizens to their homeland represents a great gain for development in the homeland, because they will greatly contribute to progress in their homeland as they did abroad. He stated that Yemen's future is promising and that the Yemeni land is fertile in terms of agriculture and oil. He noted that efforts are underway to explore for more oil throughout the Republic.

Brother Salih also said that despite the current difficulties in the region, many foreign companies have come to the country to obtain concessions to explore for oil. He added that this is evidence of the success of Yemen's foreign policy and of confidence in our policies and dealings with others. He also urged every one to mobilize all energies and called for self-reliance in building the homeland and its prosperity. He said: We have to make every effort and prove our ability to face all challenges and achieve victory in all fields of construction. Yemen is the country of civilization and genuineness, he said, adding that the Yemeni people are the people of sacrifice and challenge and capable of overcoming all challenges and crises, and that there are many lessons in their history.

The brother president also stressed the need for the GPC's members and all the sons of the people to shoulder their responsibilities in the current developments around our country. He called for more awareness and national cohesion to confront all challenges, promote national unity, and build a new strong and prosperous Yemen. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani Discusses Saudi Measures, Economy

JN0111170990 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 29 Oct 90 pp 10, 11

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni foreign minister, by Faysal Jallul in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Jallul] What is your official assessment of the Saudi measures that were taken against Yemeni expatriates?

[Al-Iryani] Such measures cannot be a reaction to a certain position adopted by Yemen toward the Gulf crisis; these measures have far-reaching objectives. Based on our understanding of the nature of these Saudi measures and their far-reaching objectives, we will not reply to these measures through our position on the current Gulf crisis. Therefore, we will not change our policy on the crisis. However, we will not relinquish the rights of Yemenis who were forced to depart Saudi Arabia, leaving behind valuable assets. Some of them have many rights there, especially those dealing in commerce, because others owe them debts that they should collect. Our reply then will be mainly focused on safeguarding peoples' rights and not allowing these rights to be lost. On the Yemeni scene, we will do our best to provide job opportunities and investment fields for returnees, because their country is the best place for residence and work. This will reflect positively on the economy of Yemen, and will transform it into a self-developed country with the help of ever-flowing Yemeni resources.

[Jallul] Do you consider what has happened to be a hostile action toward you, or a legal Saudi measure?

[Al-Iryani] If you consult international law, you will find that any country might adopt a measure that would harm another country, regardless of the size of this harm. This adds new burdens to the targeted country, which had been foreseen or taken into consideration. This is not deemed a normal procedure among nations, aside from the fact that this measure affects two interlocking countries. However, regardless of what happens, the peoples of these two countries will always remain enmeshed. Therefore, a measure like the one we are talking about could create many problems and provoke sentiments that would be described, in the softest terms, as unfriendly.

Here, I want to cite an example: When (former) West Germany decided to deport large numbers of immigrant Turks to Turkey, it drew up a program which, in the long run, spares the returnees any losses in West Germany and also spares Turkey any difficulties that might result from the sudden return of large numbers of its citizens. Of course, we say this being aware that West Germany and Turkey are not bound by the same ties which we have with our neighbors. I will cite another example from Saudi Arabia itself: When Saudi Arabia decided to Saudize foreign banks [the policy of replacing foreign employees in banks with Saudi workers], it drew up a ten-year program for this purpose. In the light of these examples, I say that it is difficult for the Saudi measure not to have a psychological effect on the Yemenis.

[Jallul] Some Western sources expect that this measure will be part of a new policy adopted by Saudi Arabia against Yemen. Do the Yemenis think that this speculation is true to life?

[Al-Iryani] This decision undoubtedly inaugurates a new policy. Also, this step is not the last. They have also taken similar steps against Jordan and Sudan. However, all that is said about Jordan and Sudan is a coverup of what is done against Yemen. They want to settle scores with Yemen. If this step has far-reaching objectives, such as raising the issue of borders, then we believe this method is not useful for attaining this objective and that this is not the right way to do things. Of course, this is if their objective is really to raise the issue of borders. At any rate, we do not think their action can resolve any disputed matter; in fact, this action creates new problems and further complicates the existing problems.

[Jallul] Now after this action, can we say that the issue of Yemeni-Saudi relations has been put up for discussion? At least, this is what happened on the ground.

[Al-Iryani] I swear that there was an attempt to put this subject up for discussion at the Arab League emergency session. However, it was an emergency session, and we were supposed to study a specific issue; mainly, Jerusalem. So, the attempt to discuss this issue was subsumed by the Gulf crisis. When we discussed this problem, what was needed was not for a resolution to be issued. Therefore, it was possible to listen to Yemen's opinion in this regard. It was expected that this opinion would result in a resolution or a recommendation. I repeat that emergency sessions do not issue resolutions or recommendations about issues other than those for which the session was convened. The Saudi envoy, however, rejected this approach, and we had to distribute our speech without having fully read it. However, all Arab delegations paid attention to the speech and came to inquire if they could do anything about this issue. You can say that after this issue was referred to all Arab presidents and kings, it was put up for discussion at the Arab League. The purpose behind this was not to ascertain the problem, but to reject any violation of the rights of Yemenis which were affected by the Saudi decision.

[Jallul] You have raised the problem of the Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia, and the Egyptians have raised the problem of their workers in Yemen and said that they have been insulted, some killed, and others expelled.

[Al-Iryani] These remarks are absolutely unfounded. No Egyptian has been harassed, no Egyptian's contract has been terminated, and no Egyptian has been banned from working in Yemen. Although some Egyptians are working contrary to the prevailing laws, we are taking no action against them. No Egyptian's means of living or daily life have been affected by any political decision by the Yemeni Government. Regrettably, the Egyptian press has deliberately attempted to mislead public opinion on this issue and neglected the assurances issued by the Yemeni Presidential Council and communicated to President Husni Mubarak. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry affirmed in a clear statement that no Egyptian in Yemen has faced any problems. Naturally, there are tens of thousands of Egyptian workers in our country, and some of them may have problems, but this is normal and does not have any political significance. This happens all the time.

[Jallul] Have projects in Yemen financed by Gulf funds been affected?

[Al-Iryani] Undoubtedly, the general economic situation in the region has been negatively affected. The projects financed by the Saudi Fund and the Kuwaiti Fund have been affected, just like in other states. This has resulted from confusion. These funds are engaged in clear and specific contracts involving legal mandatory terms to which they must be committed. There has been confusion, but the contracts are mandatory and involve time limits.

I note here that these funds are not aimed at the development of Yemen or the Arabs, but they are directed at the Third World. They extend loans to China, Yemen, and Chad in the same way. The Islamic Bank extends loans and aid to all Islamic states. Yemen is being treated in this regard on the same basis as Bangladesh, Ghana, and others. The political decisionmaking is in the hands of the owners of these funds. If they do not like the policies of Yemen or China or Bangladesh, they can suspend the financing of projects in these states or cut support for

them. However, being international funds, their actions can be compared to those of other funds.

There has been time when the policy of (former) South Yemen was not liked by the United States, but the United States did not ban loans to it, and actually did the contrary. Therefore, the policies of states must be separated from the purposes for which these funds have been established. This is a serious issue which could affect on the funds and those who manage them. Many states may say that this party wants to cooperate with me today, but will seek to buy a political position from me tomorrow.

So far, nothing has happened in my country regarding the funds I referred to. I believe confusion has been the cause of what has happened; nothing more.

[Jallul] What about the Yemeni expatriates in other Gulf states?

[Al-Iryani] The Yemenis left Kuwait like the others, and left behind a large amount of wealth and a great deal of property. No Yemenis used to work in Iraq. Let us say that there are no attractive job opportunities for Yemenis in Iraq. In other states, there are limited numbers of Yemenis being affected like others—not any more than the others—as a result of the psychological situation and the controlled media. This has an impact. However, no decisions have been made there to change the situation of the Yemenis.

[Jallul] A Saudi paper published an interview with Imam al-Badr. It also published another interview with Ibrahim al-Wazir. The two men criticized the domestic situation in Yemen and Yemeni foreign policy. How do you view that?

[Al-Iryani] I believe that such practices by mass media that do not consider themselves official are a healthy and good sign. This is because all Yemenis support the policy of the their government, although there is an opposition. There are opposition political forces whose opposition is not confined to the political sphere, but extends to economic and other spheres. These forces can express their opinions and write freely. This is a fact known by those following up our domestic situation.

These mass media did not go to the opposition members to ask them about their opinion, but preferred to go to the imamate opposition residing abroad, and they liked to highlight the timeworn imamate opposition, which has turned into voices from the dead.

[Jallul] What about the French initiative?

[Al-Iryani] We have welcomed it from the first. The brother president and the Presidential Council said the initiative was worth discussion and development. Contacts are being held and views exchanged. The French are familiar with Yemen's opinion. We expect the arrival of the French foreign minister in Sanaa early next month to discuss many issues, including the French initiative.

74 Japanese Leave Baghdad With Nakasone 7 Nov

OW0711131690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7 KYODO—A total of 74 Japanese nationals allowed by Iraq to leave the country left here for Tokyo on Wednesday with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and a Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] mission, Japanese officials said.

The officials said the Japanese—25 hostages, 47 residents in Iraq and two residents in Kuwait—are scheduled to arrive in Tokyo, via Bangkok, on Thursday morning.

The release of the detained Japanese citizens is the first since October 18, when four Japanese nationals were freed due to ill health.

Since their arrival in Baghdad last Saturday, Nakasone and the LDP delegation have held a series of talks with Iraq's President Saddam Husayn and National Assembly Chairman Sa'di Mahdi Salih, in charge of the hostages issue. The Japanese have sought the release of all foreign hostages.

Nakasone reportedly received an Iraqi promise to free 79 of the 305 Japanese civilians trapped in Iraq or Kuwait after the August 2 invasion, but Iraqi authorities finally gave permission to leave to a total of 74 on Wednesday, the officials said.

Kuwaiti Resistance Said To Poison Soldiers

NC0611115690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—A statement issued by the National Committees for the Salvation of Iraq has said that the Iraqi soldiers and officers' discontent with and increasing resentment of Saddam Husayn's regime forced this regime intensively to deploy execution squads in Kuwait and give its intelligence officers wide powers over the Armed Forces and the Kuwaiti population.

The National Committees' statement added that 40 Iraqi soldiers have died at military hospital in the Iraqi city of al-Basrah over the past two weeks after they consumed food poisoned in stores by the Kuwaiti resistance.

Saddam Said To Seek Asylum in France, Australia

PM0611143890 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 31 Oct 90 p 1

['Abd-al-Hadi Muhammad 'Ata report: "Iraqi Opposition Sources Tell AL-MADINAH: Saddam Plans To Seek Asylum in France or Australia"]

[Text] Political sources opposed to the Iraqi regime have revealed to AL-MADINAH that Saddam Husayn plans to seek political asylum in France or Australia, having realized the seriousness of his situation following his brutal occupation of the State of Kuwait on 2 August.

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said that this was why Saddam Husayn recently announced the release of the French hostages detained in Kuwait and Baghdad, in an attempt to win the French Government's sympathy so that it would grant him political asylum, especially since he is now certain of his failure to continue to occupy Kuwait and confront the international consensus against the occupation and its outcome. This is in addition to the fact that he now stands alone against international legitimacy, which demands the Iraqi forces' immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and the unconditional implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

The sources emphasized that Saddam Husayn also plans to seek political asylum in Australia if he fails to win the sympathy of France, which has recently denied any secret contacts with the Baghdad regime. In this regard the sources pointed to its possession of information confirming that Saddam Husayn has opened current accounts under pseudonyms with several commercial banks in Australia.

It is worth noting that Iraqi opposition leaders in Britain are making constant efforts to support the international resolutions condemning the Iraqi regime's practices, which prompt the international community to regard Iraq as a terrorist state that attaches no importance to international commitments and charters. On that basis the opposition leaders have emphasized the need to topple Saddam Husayn, who has driven the country to the brink of the unknown.

The sources also pointed out that the international blockade imposed against the Baghdad regime has started to achieve the desired results, and that the Iraqi people are now suffering severe shortages of food and medicines.

Willy Brandt Notes Aims of Visit to Baghdad

JN0611135490 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 6, INA—Former German Chancellor and leader of international socialism Willy Brandt last night arrived here accompanied by a delegation of German politicians and some officials at the German Red Cross.

In a statement to the Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, Mr. Brandt said that during the visit he would meet President Saddam Husayn for discussion on recent escalation in the Arab Gulf region as a result of the foreign build-up in the region.

Answering a question on goals of his visit, Mr. Brandt said that I came to Baghdad to maturate a peaceful solution with President Husayn, and that there are a set

of affairs that should be discussed to offer means of the peaceful solution which would fend off the region from consequences of the war.

On his assessment of the American attitude, Mr. Brandt said all parties concerned in the crisis should resort to dialogue, including the United States, with assertion that the American decision subject to a chain of changes, its parties were the government, the Congress and the public opinion. [sentence as received]

One commits error when he believes that this decision will never be affected by others outside this troid [as received], and at a time when the United States adopts certain decision, it is affected by others, their reaction, the former chancellor said.

Mr. Brandt added that the American decision whether positive or negative, was particularly affected by the European consensus towards this or that issue, and as concerns the Gulf crisis, this fact was clear "I mean the equation of the effect and influence".

He added that "I support the Arab solution, but it is absent, and there is no agreement on it and when it will be attained, therefore it is an important matter to offer the opportunity of the peaceful political solution".

The former German chancellor concluded by saying that "the goal of my visit confines to presenting political proposals that I will discuss them with some Iraqi officials, and this visit is not devoted to the theme of German nationals, voicing his expectation that former prime ministers of Italy and Belgium will visit Iraq soon after completing procedures of the visit".

Sees German Hostages

LD0611102190 Hamburg DPA in German 0911 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad (DPA)—The Social Democratic Party [SPD] honorary chairman Willy Brandt today raised the hopes of some 400 Germans detained in Iraq for an early release. Brandt, who has started his three-day talks with the Iraqi leadership, said during a meeting with 150 Germans at the Federal Republic's embassy he expects a "clear step" concerning the problem of the release of foreigners. "I have a feeling that something will move," said the 76-year-old SPD politician, who was welcomed with applause. "I am not sure if this applies to everybody, but I am expecting a clear step." [passage omitted]

In his speech to the Germans at the beginning of his visit to Baghdad, Brandt said he will conduct the talks in a rational way, but will be as persistent as necessary. He is equally concerned with the fate of the people and with securing peace. As far as releases are concerned he will "stick to it." He will speak on behalf of all foreigners, but he feels a particular loyalty toward his fellow-Germans.

There will not be a "dribs and drabs procedure," Brandt said. "Be prepared for (your release) to happen in two or three stages." The winner of the Nobel peace prize underlined he has "nothing to negotiate" in Baghdad. His actions are in accord with the decisions of the United Nations and the EC. Brandt expressed his satisfaction that the EC foreign ministers at their special session in Rome last night did not criticize his mission.

Brandt stressed that keeping the peace in the region is an urgent task for him. "I am deliberately talking first about the prevention of war," he said. The question is whether a "process of serious negotiations on the safeguarding of peace in the Gulf region" can be started soon.

Confers With 'Arafat

JN0611153590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met in Baghdad today with Willy Brandt, former German chancellor and head of the Socialist International, currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on issues of joint interest, as well as current developments in the Arab region, especially the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question.

Willy Brandt stated that when Middle East problems are looked at, one must find a link among them. During a press meeting attended by correspondents of world television networks and news agencies as well as INA correspondents following his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Brandt said that he is visiting Iraq to study the possibility of achieving a comprehensive peace in the entire Arab region.

Yasir 'Arafat said in turn that he is looking for a peace that guarantees for the Palestinian people their right to the establishment of their independent state.

Meets With Ramadan

JN0611191490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, this evening received Willy Brandt, former West German chancellor and honorary chairman of the German Social Democratic Party, and his delegation. The first deputy prime minister reviewed the United States' aggressive conspiracy against Iraq and its leader who said no to U.S. hegemony and no to U.S. control over peoples' destinies and resources.

The RCC member noted that the statements and war threats made by top U.S. Administration officials confirm that they have lost their balance and are trapped in a great impasse because of the exposure of their aggressive policy and objectives to dominate oil sources in the Arab Gulf region, and because of the escalating worldwide denunciation of Bush's policy which seeks to use

force and to expose the region and the world to disasters whose toll is to be paid by the United States.

Willy Brandt said peace should be reached for all issues in the region, and that Europe, seeking and working for European peace and security, should also work for peace in other regions of the world, including the Arab region, because peace is a just humanitarian principle that must prevail in the world without discrimination between one people and another.

He added that all people reject the policy of war and world public opinion is demanding peace because many people have been hit by the hardship of war. He stated that he will pursue his efforts to help broaden the channels of dialogue to bring about a comprehensive, genuine peace.

Discusses Solution With 'Aziz

JN0611193990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1907 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with former FRG Chancellor Willy Brandt and his delegation. They exchanged views on developments in the situation in the Arab Gulf region and the threat to peace and security in the region and the entire world.

They also discussed ways to bring about a peaceful, comprehensive solution to all problems in the region. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the head of the International Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Talks With Saddam

LD0711095290 Hamburg DPA in German 0855 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad (DPA)—Willy Brandt, the Social Democratic Party honorary chairman who has been in Baghdad since Monday for talks on the release of foreign hostages and possibilities of preventing a war, today met [Iraqi] State President Saddam Husayn. Observers expect the meeting to produce a preliminary decision as to how many Germans and other foreigners will be allowed to leave the country with Brandt.

Since the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, Iraq is still detaining 3,000 to 5,000 foreigners, among them nearly 400 Germans. [passage omitted]

Ramadan, Nakasone Discuss Gulf, Bilateral Ties

JN0611143090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1337 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

During the meeting, they discussed Iraqi-Japanese relations and developments in the Arab Gulf region and the world. The first deputy prime minister firmly stated that Iraq is eager to promote relations with Japan, noting that these relations should be an extension of the good and developed ones existing between the two countries over the past.

Nakasone noted the importance of promoting Iraqi-Japanese relations and said he was confident that Japanese companies would continue to expand cooperation with Iraq and to carry out development projects.

He explained that he will continue his efforts to establish peace in the region, saying that the number is increasing of those in the international arena who demand peaceful solutions to ward off the specter of war in the region.

Japanese Deputy Meets Minister of Industry

JN0511134690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, has met with Japanese Deputy Koko Sato, deputy secretary of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and his delegation.

They exchanged views on the current conditions in the region, the dimensions of the U.S. aggressive acts against Iraq and the Arab nation, and its escalation of tension in a manner that threatens world peace and security.

Meets With Jasim

JN0511154190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the [Command's] Foreign Relations Bureau, has voiced Iraq's desire to improve its relations with Japan, which is a major and technologically-developed country from whose expertise the whole world benefits.

During a meeting with Koko Sato, Parliament member and deputy secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan, Jasim said that Iraq stresses its desire to improve these relations on party, official, and commercial levels, pointing to the importance of holding constant meetings between officials from the two countries to achieve that goal.

He expressed hope that the Japanese parliamentary delegation's visit will help bolster relations between the two countries.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim referred to the situation in the Arabian Gulf and called for averting war in the region because it will be destructive and its consequences will be very serious. He stressed that the United States will face defeat if it ignites war. He emphasized the need

to adopt President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August as the basis for resolving all problems in the region, primarily the Palestine question.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim criticized the bias with which United Nations and UN Security Council Resolutions are implemented. Koko Sato, Parliament member and deputy secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan, said his country is working to improve relations with Iraq.

Irish Parliamentarians Meet Assembly Speaker

JN0311191390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received the Irish parliamentary delegation headed by Michael Higgins, currently visiting Iraq.

Mr. Salih stressed during the meeting that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative opened wide the door to solving the region's problems all at once. He indicated that Iraq is willing to solve the region's problems by peaceful means, away from foreign interference.

He said that the U.S. presence in the Arab Islamic lands under the pretext of defending world legitimacy was the main reason for the major escalation of the crisis. The objectives of this invasion, he said, are now clear to everyone; namely, to continue stealing the Arab nation's wealth, impose colonialist hegemony, and protect the agent regimes in the region. He said modern history has recorded many U.S. violations of world legitimacy through such acts as the invasion of Vietnam and Panama; the starvation of Iraq's children by depriving them of food, milk, and medicine; and the unlimited support for the Zionist entity, which perpetrates the most horrible crimes against the Palestinian Arab people.

He said that the United States has not applied even slight pressure on Israel to force it into accepting UN resolutions. On the contrary, and against the international will, it has used its veto more than 81 times to prevent the adoption of any resolution aginst the Zionist entity.

The Irish parliamentary delegation praised Iraq's peaceful initiatives to bring about a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region and its desire for full peace in the region.

Confer With Jasim

JN0411211190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Regional Command, has received the Irish parliamentary delegation headed by Michael Higgins. Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim reviewed leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and the fair solutions it includes for a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He referred to the economic blockade imposed on Iraq by the United States in cooperation with its allies and agents. He said that the blockade did not start after 2 August, adding that the United States had tried to prevent many foodstuffs from reaching Iraq.

Jasim added that the American-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq was planned long ago and that the return of Kuwait to Iraq is being used as an excuse to send more foreign forces to the Gulf. He also touched on the foreign guests in Iraq. He said that hosting them by the Iraqi people is aimed at preventing war, which, if it erupts, will threaten world peace. Comrade Jasim held U.S. President Bush responsible for any military operation against Iraq, stressing that Iraq wants peace but will strongly retaliate for any aggression. He described Iraqi-Irish relations as good, expressing hope that they will be promoted.

Michael Higgins expressed happiness over his stay in Iraq and thanked Iraq for its hospitality to the Irish delegation, praising the good relations between his country and Iraq. He also referred to leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative and said: We, as peace messengers, welcome this initiative and we will assist in achieving peace.

Leave Baghdad 5 Nov

JN0511122690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—The Irish parliamentary delegation headed by Member of Parliament Michael Higgins left Baghdad today concluding a four-day visit to Iraq.

Mr. Michael Higgins said in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that during the visit the delegation held many meetings with Iraqi officials during which they exchanged opinions and viewpoints on Iraqi-Irish relations and means to develop them to serve the interests of the two people, in addition to discussing the problems of the Arab region in general.

He affirmed the need to allow foodstuffs, medicines, and baby milk to reach the Iraqi people. He stressed the need to solve the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region through peaceful means without resorting to the use of military force.

Italian Deputy Arrives in Baghdad With Delegation

JN0211210690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—An Italian deputy has affirmed that most of the Italian people reject the military option to deal with the Gulf crisis. Giovanni Rousseau Spinina [name as received], member of the Italian Parliament and head of the Italian parliamentary delegation which arrived in Baghdad today, said that the

Italian people call for solving all Middle East problems through dialogue and diplomatic means, and for saving the region from the pains of war. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Spinina said that the delegation, which represents a number of political opposition forces and which includes two members who represent the European Parliament, will discuss with Iraqi officials the developments in the Gulf, their effects, and ways of dealing with these effects.

Meets With Assembly Speaker

JN0211211390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with the Italian parliamentary delegation led by Giovanni Rousseau Spinina [name as received]. The National Assembly speaker said the danger threatening the Middle East and the entire world is the result of the American forces' invasion of the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. He stressed that Iraq adheres to peace and to the need for dealing with problems in the region on a unified basis through leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. This initiative, he said, represents a sound and firm course to remove the specter of war and to solve all issues through peaceful means, away from tension.

The head of the Italian parliamentary delegation praised Iraq's peaceful initiatives for achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He affirmed that the Italian political forces which he and the accompanying delegation members represent understand Iraq's stands based on the concern for achieving peace in the region and the world.

'Adnan Da'wud Salman, chairman of the Iraqi Organization for Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity, also met with the visiting delgation. He said that Iraq's initiatives to solve the problems in the region on just and comprehensive bases and to avert the specter of a destructive war are based on the Iraqi people's belief in peace and on their wish for peace to prevail the entire region.

Giovanni Rousseau Spinina praised President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and described it as an honest step to achieve peace in the region through dialogue, without foreign interference.

Says Hostages Treated Well

JN0511144290 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 5, INA—Spokesman for the Italian parliamentary delegation, currently on a visit to Baghdad, Ranero Lavala [name as received] believed that the United States was not keen on applying international legitimacy.

In a statement published today by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, Mr. Lavala added that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq constituted a glaring violation not only of the Security Council's resolutions, but also of laws and principles, on which international legitimacy and the United Nations were based. Mr. Lavala confirmed that parliamentary groups he represented had put forward a draft resolution urging the Italian Government not to take part in the trade embargo against Iraq. He pointed out that these groups had voted unanimously against Italy's participation in the military build-up in the Gulf.

He pointed out that peace movements in Italy pledged to continue parliamentary and mass efforts to break the blockade against Iraq and secure part of the Iraqi children's need of food and medicine. On the United States' military build-up on the borders with Iraq, Mr. Lavala reiterated his belief that policy [as received] and peace could lead to just solutions to the region's problems and that war could bring untold death and destruction to thousands of innocent people.

He stressed that the presence of American forces and those of its allies in the Gulf could only aggravate the situation and that their withdrawal could alleviate the crisis and clear up the way for a political Arab solution under an international umbrella, on the basis of peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations.

Mr. Lavala underlined that the American military intervention would inevitably create chaos, especially that the Iraqi people and leadership were determined not to succumb to the U.S. policy of blackmail and arrogance.

On Iraq's peace initiative, Mr. Lavala said that the sole panacea for the Gulf crisis should be part of an overall settlement ensuring the rights of all peoples of the region to exploit their natural resources and riches on the grounds of cooperation and integration between the industrialized nations and states possessing these riches. As for Iraq's Italian guests, the Italian member of parliament said that they enjoyed good health and treatment, and thanked the Iraqi government and people for the attention they paid to the Italian nationals they hosted.

Ramadan Meets With Arab Trade Unionists

JN0311200890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Hasan Jammam, secretary general of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, and the delegation accompanying him, currently visiting Iraq to attend the ninth conference of the Iraqi General Federation of Trade Unions.

Ramadan reviewed Iraq's peaceful positions aimed at fending off the specter of war in the region as reflected in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. He stressed that the U.S. policy of military escalation and threats and the accelerating series of inhumane resolutions under the cover of the Security Council close the door to any dialogue to bring about peace in the region.

Ramadan paid tribute to the role played by Arab unions and organizations to bolster common Arab action and counter all imperialist American and Zionist conspiratorial schemes.

The meeting was attended by comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the Central Bureau of Professional and Popular Organization, and Mr. Fadil Mahmud Gharib, head of the Iraqi General Federation of Trade Unions.

The first deputy prime minister also received today the delegation of the Swedish Islamic Council headed by Haytham Rahmah, imam of the Islamic League in Stockholm, and the delegation accompanying him.

Mr. Ramadan stressed during the meeting that Iraq's honorable and pivotal readiness to wage the battle against America and its allies has united the believers, not only in the Arab world, but also in the entire world. He stressed that the forces of justice, virtue, and faith will beat back all forces of atheism and aggression, which miscalculated Iraq's strength.

He said the mounting anger on the Arab and Islamic scenes is the best evidence of confidence in Iraq's sound policy and its right to defend its security and the dignity of the Arab nation.

The first deputy prime minister said Iraq supports every opportunity to achieve peace on the basis of justice and equality. At the same time, it rejects solutions imposed by force on the Arabs and Muslims in the presence of foreign forces on the sacred Arab lands. He stressed the need for the departure of the American and Atlantic forces from the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] in order to create a positive atmosphere to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Haytham Rahmah praised President Saddam Husayn's courageous and heroic position and his confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist designs, which aim at undermining the unity of Arabs and Muslims, imposing imperialist hegemony on the peoples of the region, and stealing the region's wealth.

Press on U.S.-Saudi Agreement on Army Command

JN0711101390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers have strongly denounced the disgraceful agreement between the betrayer of the two holy mosques and America to place all the forces deployed in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] at the disposal of the American command should an aggression be carried out against Iraq. The two papers are unanimous that the fate of the betrayer of the two holy mosques and America's servant, Husni, will be determined by the mass of flames, that their fate will be at the head of the fates that will be decided, and that the crucial battle will chop off the heads of the betrayers of Arabism before destroying their thrones.

In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is the first time in Arab history that all the nation's objectives become united in one battle. It is also the first time that the imperialist American enemy throws all its forces, pillars, and tools of aggression against the Arab nation. Three months after the beginning of the crucial battle the nation has become more convinced that the crucial battle constitutes the nation's existence and destiny, in light of whose results the Arab's course, future, and humanitarian role will be determined just as the fate of the invading usurpers and their tools will be decided.

The paper adds: It is not strange or unexpected that the Fahd regime goes back to its original, true guise. Moreover, it is no surprise that the Croesus follows in the footsteps of Al-Badr, the defunct Imam of Yemen who is unable to eliminate the darkness and oblivion covering his isolated existence, and that he faces the end of his like.

The paper points out that the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, has assumed the conspiratorial Imamate role, and opened, without justification, the Arab lands which embrace the Kaaba and the tomb of the noble prophet, to the American and British occupation forces, and turned the lands of Najd and Hejaz into a center to carry out aggression against Iraq. Yesterday, Baker chaired a six-hour meeting which was attended by the submissive Fahd and his clique, whom the White House deprived of the right to speak before it deprived them of decisionmaking. They have become a Trojan horse that is raising the American flag with all the impudence that is expected from those whose foreheads do not sweat with shame and whose eyes do not reflect any sense of honor.

The paper stresses: When the agents play this conspiratorial role against Iraq and the nation, and when they turn into a tool for the American aggression, then Iraq, that does not bow before the agents and their masters, nor fears spies, will not hesitate to chop off the heads of the agent traitors. Moreover, the nation will seize the opportunity to purge its ranks of filth. At the same time, it will liberate all its usurped and occupied territories and defeat the grouping of evildoers and all their armies, fleets, interests, and pillars.

It adds: This is the nation's decision and this is its will. The entire nation is with Iraq and with right while only some traitorous rulers are with the American and Zionist occupiers. The battle is the crucial battle, the battle of Arab destiny. The nation will not waste the opportunity, it will comprehensively get rid of all the occupiers and agents, and it will emerge victorious with its ranks purged and united, having restored all its rights and full humanitarian role. We will triumph.

In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Has the betrayer of the two holy mosques imagined that he will command the American and allied forces? It adds: We have no doubt at all that when he invited these forces, Fahd knew that he had signed a document through which he relinquished the elements of sovereignty and independent decisionmaking, including the decision to move the forces which occupied parts of the Arab land and spoliated the sanctity of their holy places. This is because he who brings forces that outnumber his own forces in both men and equipment must have actually surrendered to the aggression, provided it with full cover, and deprived himself of will and sovereignty.

The paper stresses that Iraq was not surprised by the reports on the agreement between the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, and the U.S. secretary of state to place all the forces deployed in the land of Najd and Hejaz at the disposal of the American command should an aggression be carried out against Iraq.

It says that at the beginning of the current developments in the region, Iraq warned that the betrayer of the two holy mosques and America's servant, Husni, had mortgaged themselves and their regimes to the U.S. Administration when they provided a cover for the American-British-Zionist invaders, and paved the way for this massive grouping of evildoers to desecrate the land of sanctities and to declare aggression against Iraq. Therefore, Fahd and Husni should have realized that they would face a terrible fate, and seen for themselves that their lies were clearly exposed, and that ultimately they had granted the invaders who control the evildoers alliance a great opportunity to achieve their scheme to impose hegemony over the region, plunder its natural resources, and threaten the world's security and stability. They also should have realized that their role is that of a humiliated, defeated servant. Even this small, desperate role does not befit senior actors, but small actors, and it will end when they end, perhaps before the end of the play of invasion, threat, and aggression. Thus, this is the situation before fighting erupts in the crucial battle.

The paper adds: Let this senile traitor know that all his lies have been exposed all at once, and that the issue of commanding the evil front was decided before it was discussed with him, especially since he was not content with his sin of opening the lands of the holy places to the invaders, but he also decided to pay for them. By doing so, he is the first to pay the expenditures of occupation for the occupiers of his country. The betrayer of the two holy mosques should realize that no matter who commands the evil forces, his destiny will continue to be at the head of the decided destinies, because the Americans will have no better opportunity to dispose of him after he has turned into a burned card and his body and brain have become flabby and useless, and after he has become hated by millions of Arabs and Muslims. Iraq has said it loud and clear that the crucial battle will chop off the heads of the betrayers of Arabism and Muslims before destroying their thrones, and that through their alliance with the trench of evildoers and infidels against the trench of the patient believers, these traitors are bringing their inevitable death closer. Husni and Fahd are now coming closer to their inevitable end because they have proved that they are traitors and nothing more than contemptible individuals who will inevitably face their ill-fated destiny.

Editor Derides Report on Iraqi-'Zionist' Meeting

JN0511205890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2038 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY's international affairs editor has ridiculed the allegations made by the Zionist newspaper HA'ARETZ concerning a meeting which is said to have been arranged between Iraqi and Zionist officials a year ago.

The editor says: We are used to hearing such fabricated reports whenever the Zionists are planning a new conspiracy against Iraq in collusion with their agents in the region. Through such fabricated reports, they try to divert attention from their conspiracies and violations and cover their crimes against our people in the occupied territories.

The editor stressed that the Zionists know full well what Iraq is and what its stands are. He added that they will not benefit from these cheap and mean attempts to shuffle the cards, cover things up, and divert attention.

Media Warns of Retaliation If Nation Attacked

'Evil Capitals' Targets

JN0611125190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that the world has two specific options today. One of them was presented by Iraq through its 12 August initiative, which guarantees rights, security, and peace. The evil alliance has presented the other option in the form of war threats, and nothing else.

In its editorial today under the headline "The Flames Will Devour the Invaders and Their Servants," the paper said that if the evildoers insist on their goals and attack Iraq in an armed aggression, then no one can blame Iraq for transferring the battle to the evil capitals.

It added: Iraq will then force the Zionists to pay their dues and will play its role in dwarfing the imperialist presence in this region and harshly punishing those who have betrayed Iraq, the nation, and Islam, while they knew full well—whether we name them or not—how easy it will be for Iraq to burn their paper entities.

AL-JUMHURIYAH warned that these traitors will not find enough time to pack their treasure troves and shameful secrets and run away, as the corrupt Croesuses did on the day the land struck them.

It said: As for their bosses, the Americans and the English, they will not be able to put out the fire that will devour them because by then, the flames will have devoured the invaders to render them helpless. The bodies, which will be corpses scattered in the desert for hawks to peck on, will not be able to serve them then.

It clarified that President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August is an objective, accurate, and comprehensive vision for all issues in the region.

It added: The initiative also offered an objective and clear solution that will achieve the region's peace, security, and stability on just grounds and principles which retrieve real effectiveness to the international community's principles. This effectiveness has been missing due to U.S. hegemony over the international organization and the double standards it is applying.

It pointed out that the initiative is very positive, and serves the peace, security, and stability of the world, since the present and future interests of many world countries are linked to the Arab world, specifically the Arabian Gulf region, which is rich in the vital oil necessary for human life.

It said that at a time when the Anglo-American-Zionist stances regarding this initiative are being affirmed, the imperialist forces are working against world peace and stability, because they believe that their interests alone are the higher ones, and that the interests of the other parts of the world are less important and mean nothing in the first place.

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper affirmed that what the U.S. Administration and its evil alliance want is to blatantly harm not only Iraq but the entire world by threatening the interests of millions of Arabs and sanctities of a billion Muslims.

'Special Experiment' Secret

JN0311101490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0728 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Today's Iraqi newspapers renew their warning to the U.S. Administration of the terrible and grave consequences that might result from military confrontation if war breaks out because of the escalation and threats Bush has launched recently.

AL-QADISIYAH, the organ of the Defense Ministry, says: From the logic of a strong, knowledgeable party, we warn Bush and his followers about taking the course of aggression at a time when the spark of war might become a hell that will go beyond the borders of the region. In its editorial, the paper adds: Despite our awareness of the results of a destructive war and despite our concern for a just peace, our endeavors for well-being, and our striving for others to be aware of our legitimate rights, we, at the same time, will not spare efforts in any confrontation that those who are beating the drums and who are kindling the confrontation are trying to drag us into.

AL-QADISIYAH touches on Iraq's firm policy based on the principled concern for peace and stability. The paper says: At the same time, we believe that the word of reason and the wisdom of dialogue is more sublime than what any confrontation could produce, because we are concerned for our humanity and that of others.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: If the American enemy and its allies become embroiled in a military aggression, they will discover the gravity of their erroneous calculations, which are closer to hopes than to reality. In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH states that the aggressors will deceive themselves on their own. Among the facts that the belligerent and arrogant U.S. Administration finds it difficult to understand is that knowledge is no one's monopoly and that if a war breaks out in the Arab region it will prove to the Americans and their allies that many of their calculations about Iraq's capabilities are wrong.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Iraq has been able to take successful steps in its experiments and skill, and in the possession of tools and methods to a degree much greater than the evil ones so far know as concerns its capabilities.

The Iraqi paper says that when the confrontation begins, they will not be faced with the capabilities of a Third World country in terms of experience and skills, as well as in terms of strength of will and firmness of position. They will know that the popular support that Iraq enjoys exceeds the population of this country to include millions of free Arabs and Muslims who will play an effective role in deterring aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the aggressors will discover that the level, power, kind, tools, and arenas of retaliation will inflict on them an inevitable catastrophe. The Iraqi newspaper states that so-called electronic warfare is no longer possessed by one party only. Iraq is able to enjoy something that the aggressors do not possess; that is, its special experiment whose secrets are immune to the world.

AL-'IRAQ says that the hysterical statements made in unison by Bush, Husni, and Thatcher; the confusion they are demonstrating, and the haphazardness dominating all their statements are the embodiment of the aggressive and conspiratorial nature of their regimes, which are hostile to all peoples and humanity. In today's editorial under the headline "Our People Will Not Be Terrified by Hysterical Statements and Blatant Threats," the paper says: President Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, imagine that their hysterical statements will have an effect or shake up our people and nation.

AL-'IRAQ concentrates on Iraq's frequent assertions that the best solution to all the problems in the region requires the creation of an atmosphere for dialogue based on the pillars of peace and justice to emerge with results and resolutions that serve the region and people and guarantee a stable situation and fair solutions to all crises and pending issues.

The Iraqi paper says that he who mourns freedom and boasts of democracy should use logic and reason and follow the path of peace and justice as a way to solve problems far away from empty arrogance and haughtiness, which have gone forever.

Nation Ready for 'Any Eventuality'

JN0711130990 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said here today that Iraq's steadfastness and coolness in the face of such unprecedented air, land and sea muscle flexing has obviously confounded the American military who, over the last three months, must have been constantly reviewing their war plans.

It said editorially that if the U.S. is contemplating any military action, it would surprise anybody but Iraq, which is ready for any eventuality. Once the war breaks out, it would be on Iraqi soil, not American, a fact that would give the Iraqis a significant leverage a morale-boosting situation where they would fight tooth and nail in defence of their sovereignty, territorial integrity and free choice.

The daily further said that deep inside, President Bush has certainly realised how catastrophic it would be for America and its local allies if any U.S.-spearheaded onslaught turns out to be a flash in the pan. It would not be only Bush's political future at stake. Rather, many oil shaykhs would become among the first casualties of any Anglo-American-ignited hostilities in the Arab Gulf region.

If the U.S. and Britain have so far thought twice, they should try a third time before taking the crucial decision of war. They have to remember they are facing a war-hardened army whose endurance has been tested.

It said in a little more than three months, U.S. soldiers are complaining about remaining in Gulf region. They told James Baker they were fed up with thinking of "what's going to happen next"? They put it pointblank to the chief of U.S. diplomacy that they either "do it or go home."

Iraq has already taken the wind out of Bush's sail. The already bored U.S. troops are going to wait for much longer. Even if they go to action, it would not be allowed to be a swift operation. It is going to be a war that is likely to drag for long time. It would be for the one who laughs last, it concluded.

Trade Ministry Rejects U.S. 'Allegations'

JN0611171890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1534 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—A responsible source at the Trade Ministry has made a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in reaction to the U.S. State Department's false allegations on the provision of foodstuffs and other needs to the guests of Iraq.

The source said: The U.S. Administration and its propaganda tools persist in disseminating false statements against the Iraq of Arabism, Islam, and peace as part of a premeditated plan to hide its crime of triggering a destructive war of aggression. The U.S. Administration has mobilized its armies and Atlantic fleets and pushed them to occupy the holy land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Public opinion, the forces of peace and liberation, and all good people in the world, including those in the United States of America, are now aware of the real motives behind the fabrication of the Gulf crisis by the United States' imperialist policy, the Zionist lobby, and the agent regimes.

The motives are based on accomplishing a thieving, aggressive scheme to practice extortion against the states of the world, subjugate our Arab nation's resources to U.S. monopolies, and undermine the aspirations of the states of the world to establish a new international economic order built on equality and mutual benefit among states so that their prosperity and economic and cultural progress are secured.

The bankruptcy of Bush and his aggressive, criminal administration has pushed them more and more toward the abyss of blatant contradiction; at the same time that this criminal administration issues under international cover its sinful resolution to starve and make millions of the children, women, and old men of proud Iraq perish, it is seen by the entire world as shedding crocodile tears for the foreign nationals who are being hosted by Saddam Husayn's Iraq and who are being treated generously so as to safeguard regional and world security.

Instead of responding to the logic of reason and wisdom in peaceful initiatives, specifically leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990 to resolve all major problems in the region—beginning with the uprooting of the criminal world Zionism which is persisting in displacing and slaying the heroic Palestinian people—we find the United States, unsurprisingly, exposing its frivolousness by demanding that Iraq, which is subjected to an economic embargo and military blockade, make available blankets and clothes for the foreign national guests in Iraq.

This is the habit of the aggressive invaders and colonialist igniters of wars, and this is their history, which is full of the criminal shedding of blood of innocent people in the world.

Concluding his statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the source said: While confirming to the world and to the families of the guests of Iraq that the Bush administration's allegations and fabrications about the treatment of the guests of Iraq are false, the Ministry of Trade, upon instructions from leader President

Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has secured the kinds and amounts of the items demanded by the guests of Iraq without limitation and without discrimination from Iraqi, Arab, or foreign nationals in our beloved Iraq for whom foodstuffs are being made available equally in accordance with the supply coupons system.

Thatcher Reviving 'British Imperialist Tendency'

JN0611132290 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said here today that Thatcher has revived the British imperialist tendency through her full backing to the U.S.-led campaign in the Arab Gulf region against Iraq. She has been fanning the flames of war in the Gulf through disgusting bellicose statements, and so did Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The two have abandoned, through their statements, all the courtesy and good manners that are expected of the English, a nation which prides itelf of being polite and tactful. They got out of their "conservative" nature because they are not used to seeing one of their former colonies, Iraq, refuse to budge in the face of their threats.

It editorially said that such aggressive attitude against Iraq is not something new as Britain has always had war-mongering and arrogant attitudes towards many peoples of the world who managed to get out of British domination to achieve political and economic independence.

The Iraqi daily added that Thatcher and her government are showing outmoded colonialist thinking motivated by dreams to bring back Britain's colonialist conquests which were broken up by people's will in Iraq and other parts of the globe. In fact pro-Thatcher media has criticised all efforts aimed at keeping the spectre of war in the Gulf away. It also opposed the visit to Iraq by Mr. Edward Heath, himself a Conservative.

The British Prime Minister's latest drumming for war against Iraq did not start in August but months earlier when she sent one of her spies to the country under media cover in violation of Iraq's sovereignty.

The daily concluded apparently, the "Iron Lady" has forgotten that the former colony can now face up to her arrogance and foil her colonialist dreams.

Thatcher is Thatcher whether in the Gulf, Europe or anywhere else. She is pushing for war against Iraq and the Arabs and defying the will of all Europeans. So everybody should watch out. The perfidious Maggie is coming.

Legal, Judicial Agreement With Bulgaria Ratified

JN0511151090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—The National Assembly today ratified the agreement on legal and judicial cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria, signed in Baghdad on 6 March 1990. [passage omitted]

Saddam Congratulates Gorbachev on National Day

JN0711085390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0826 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev on his country's national day. The following is the text of the cable:

On the occasion of the USSR national day, it pleases me to extend to you and to the Soviet people, in my own name and on behalf of Iraq, heartfelt wishes and congratulations. On this occasion, we stress our concern for promoting and reinforcing the Iraqi-Soviet relations in the interest of our two friendly peoples, and for enhancing peace, security, and stability in our region and in the world based on right, justice, and respect for nations' national options and rights. We wish you continued good health and happiness and the friendly Soviet people further progress.

Swedish Pharmaceutical Companies Donate Supplies

JN0511161490 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] A load of medical supplies worth 3 million Swedish kronor designated for the children of Iraq as a present from Swedish companies will arrive in Iraq today, Saturday. Styke Bren [name as published], member of the Swedish peace delegation currently visiting Iraq, informed AL-JUMHURIYAH and said that this supply was being extended by Swedish pharmaceutical companies as their contribution to breaking the embargo on Iraq. He pointed out that he will launch a broad campaign when he returns to Sweden to clarify Iraq's position and inform the Swedish people about the truth, especially since the Western media is launching an unjust campaign against Iraq and distorting facts.

Paper Notes Drive To Encourage Agriculture

JN0611133490 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has recently taken new measures to boost the nation-wide cultivation drive. The drive is aimed at cutting down Iraq's foreign imports of agricultural products and in the end to foil the American-led economic blockade against the country.

Report carried by the BAGHDAD OBSERVER said the drive is spearheaded by President Saddam Husayn who ordered the increase in the prices of wheat and barley purchased by the government from farmers, while reducing the prices of seeds and fertilizers sold to them.

To further encourage plantation, farmers were exempted from military service as reservists.

Furthermore, on September 5, the Revolution Command Council (RCC) issued a decree, allowing farmers to cultivate land owned by the state with cereals for five years free of charge. The decree stated that after this period the land would be leased at very encouraging fees.

Another decree issued by the RCC two days later stated that the uncultivated land would be taken out from its owners and would be given to someone who was willing to cultivate it.

Meanwhile, the Ministry issued regulations for this winter plantation in which it defined the density of plantation in each type of soil and the size of the land to be planted with grain. The state would also hire agricultural equipment to farmers at relatively low fees.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also formed a committee to supervise the implementation of the drive. The job of the committee includes the supply of fertilizers and seeds to farmers in required quantities and in due time.

According to Ministry statistics, 518,000 tonnes of fertilizers, about 155,000 tonnes of wheat and 39,000 tonnes of barley have been allocated by the Ministry for this winter plantation.

In another development, the Ministry reclamation companies have started dredging irrigation channels and according to the Ministry the work is due to be completed mid-November.

Sixteen repair workshops were formed for maintenance of agricultural equipment of the private sector. Other workshops were formed by the Ministry of Industry. Three main committees in charge of fertilizers, seeds and machinery were formed to follow up the work.

Other measures included holding seminars for farmers on how to ration water. Farmers are called upon to achieve self-sufficiency in seeds and finding new alternatives for the animal feed ingredients to replace the cereals used in the production of feed.

Apart from the urgency that the embargo has brought, Iraq for the last two decades has been making efforts to boost its agricultural sector. It has built a few dams including Saddam, Qadisiyah, Dahuk, and Hamran. Bekma, 'Udhaiym and Baghdadi are under construction. The Saddam irrigation project was also built in al-Ta'mim Province. The project can irrigate around half a million donums (donum=2,500 sq.m.). Some 150,000 donums have so far been actually been used.

Another irrigation project is al-Jazirah which covers 1.3 million donums on both sides of the River Tigris. Two other irrigation projects are Salamiyah and Dahuk.

The state has reclaimed vast areas through such projects as Ishaqi, Lower Diyala, Hilla-Kafal, al-Radhwaniyah, al-Saqlawiyah, Abu-Ghurayb al-Musayyib, al-Suwayrah and Dalmaj.

A giant drainage system known as Masab al-'Am is currently underway. The water drained from the irrigation projects in the middle and southern parts of Iraq flows into Masab al-'Am, which is also known as the third river. The 526 Km river starts from the drainage of al-Saqlawiyah near Baghdad to the river of al-Basrah. Together with the river flows into the Shatt al-'Arab waterway.

Out of a total of 3,011,000 donums covered by irrigation plan 2,077,000 donums have been reclaimed and handed to investors.

Thousands of artesian wells have been opened for irrigation. Until mid-September this year, 6,030,000 donums had been leased to farmers. The lease started in 1983.

Arens Pledges Swift Response to Any Iraqi Attack

PM0711152690 Paris LE FIGARO in French 6 Nov 90 p 3

[Interview with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Pierre Rousselin in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Text] Tel Aviv—[Rousselin] Everybody is producing conflicting predictions about the date for opening hostilities in the Gulf. What is your forecast?

[Arens] I cannot say when war will break out. The Americans themselves have probably not yet decided. But in the absence of signs that Saddam Husayn is prepared to abandon a number of positions, there will be a military intervention. He has so far given no such sign.

[Rousselin] Can Israel stay out of a Gulf war?

[Arens] Israel will stay out of a war if it is not attacked by Iraq. We hope that this will be the case, but if we are attacked—and we have heard threats from Baghdad—we will immediately retaliate. And I can tell you that our response will not be a "low-profile" response!

[Rousselin] Is Iraq capable of producing a nuclear bomb?

[Arens] Iraq is making almost frantic attempts to obtain a nuclear capability. This should not surprise the French who enabled him to launch this program with the Osirak reactor. If we had not destroyed that reactor Iraq would already have the bomb. Despite that its program has made rapid progress with the help of West European firms and scientists. If this help is stopped it will be another few years before it has the nuclear bomb. But if foreign aid continues that could happen very quickly.

[Rousselin] Are you not afraid that the start of hostilities in the Gulf might unleash violence on the West Bank and in Gaza?

[Arens] It is not easy to predict what might happen in the Near East. We were disappointed to see the extent of the support which Saddam Husayn enjoys in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. I do not foresee anything more than the existing expressions of support for Saddam Husayn. I doubt that there would be a more serious reaction because I think that the population knows that our our response will be unequivocal and implemented without the slightest hesitation.

[Rousselin] When you took office in June you tried to limit the number of people killed in the intifadah. You succeeded until the Temple Mount shooting. It now seems that you have failed.

[Arens] We are making every effort to limit the loss of life, whether Arab or Jew. But when our soldiers' lives are at stake we have no choice but to use firearms. I hope that the difficult period which we are experiencing will pass. We cannot make any progress in this climate of violence.

[Rousselin] If the violence waned would you be prepared to revive the peace process?

[Arens] Undoubtedly. The government is determined to implement its May 1989 initiative which makes provision for elections in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. But these elections can only be held in a peaceful atmosphere.

[Rousselin] Some people say that coexistence has become impossible.

[Arens] I would say that noncoexistence is even more impossible. I know that there are some Arabs who want to throw us into the sea and some Jews who want to kick out the Arabs. But neither will happen. Jews and Arabs will continue to live in the region and will have to find a way of living in peace. But in view of the current atmosphere in the region and the long tradition of fanaticism and intolerance which characterizes such a large part of the Arab world, this is a very difficult task...

[Rousselin] When you temporarily closed the "green line" it was said that the government was seeking its own objective of a "Greater Israel..."

[Arens] Those who say that take their wishes for reality. There are 140,000 Palestinians living in Jerusalem, and 800,000 Palestinians who are Israeli citizens. There are also 100,000 Jews living in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. Anybody who talks in terms of apartheid, of separation between Jews and Arabs, does not understand the reality of Israel.

[Rousselin] Was it a way of imposing sanctions on the population of the territories?

[Arens] I am opposed to the idea of sanctions, but if the murders continue it will be very difficult to find a Jewish employer who will give an Arab work: He will fear for his life and for those of his clients. I hope that these incidents will not be repeated and that the Israelis will realize that just a tiny minority of Arab workers take part in this kind of violence.

Tel Aviv Reports

TA0611155690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The defense minister has responded to Iraq's threats to Israel today. Moshe Arens said that if Israel is attacked its reaction will not be one of low profile.

[Begin Arens recording] These days we are again hearing threats from Baghdad. Israel is not involved in the Persian Gulf crisis, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is ready for any eventuality. Any Iraqi attempt to involve Israel in the Gulf crisis would be a grave mistake on their part. If Israel is attacked, its response will not be one of low profile. [end recording]

The defense minister made the remarks at a memorial service for IDF fatalities.

Group Claims Kahana Assassination

JN0611162890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] An anonymous telephone caller claiming to speak in the name of the Western Emanation Group [majmu'at al-shu'a' al-gharbi] told the AFP office in Amman that the group is claiming credit for assassinating the extreme rightist Rabbi Meir Kahana in a New York hotel yesterday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Reacts to Murder

TA0611171890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In today's reactions to Kahana's murder, one could discern a finger pointing to the United States although not necessarily a finger directing blame. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem described the murder as an unprecedented attack on an Israeli political figure on U.S. soil and said that grave fact is in itself significant. The spokesman called for stopping blatant provocation by terrorist actions on U.S. soil and pointed to the U.S. success in its fight against terror in the air and on the sea. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Aridor Discusses Palestine Issue

TA0311094690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Interview with Yoram Aridor, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, by U.S. correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, in New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Ambassador Aridor, some people in the corridors of the UN Building have said that the Israeli Government, by refusing to receive a delegation on behalf of the UN secretary general, would now be forced to accept some kind of international conference that would try to resolve the Palestinian problem. Have you also received this impression after reading the secretary general's report?

[Aridor] Certainly not. We have stated more than once that we apply the humanitarian clauses of the Geneva Convention in the territories of Judaea and Samaria. We do not, however, recognize the Convention's legal jurisdiction over these territories because this jurisdiction applies when a territory is conquered from one sovereign entity and passes over to another. In our case, Judaea and Samaria were never under Jordanian sovereignty; on the contrary, Jordan occupied them by force. That is the interpretation we are according the Geneva Convention here in New York: that the Convention has no legal bearing.

[Ben-'Ami] Excuse me, Ambassador Aridor, is this legal position also acceptable, to the best of your knowledge, to the legal advisers of other countries' delegations to the United Nations?

[Aridor] I am aware that this legal stand is not widely accepted. However, on such issues we follow the decisions of the Israeli Government and the rulings of the Supreme Court, which endorse this position. We must remember that we are a sovereign nation and our fate is in our own hands. Therefore, we should not be frightened—and now I get back to the first part of your question—because someone said something in the corridors of the United Nations. The final decision will not be made in New York but in Jerusalem.

[Ben-'Ami] At any rate, during the last few weeks there has been a clearly noticeable trend in the United Nations: Quite a few countries have tried to force Israel into a corner regarding the Palestinian question. In the coming days an Arab proposal, initiated by the PLO, will be raised at the General Assembly concerning the Israeli delegation's writ of accreditation. Can we count on the United States, for example, to pull us out of the fire?

[Aridor] Regarding the issue of the Israeli delegation's writ of accreditation, I can assure you that to say that we have found understanding for our position by the U.S. delegation would be an understatement. We found that it totally agrees with us on that matter. We have expressed the position that we will refuse to accept a second-class status in the United Nations. We consider that to be discrimination between Israel and the other members of the organization. We even stated that we consider that to constitute the pinning of a yellow Star of David on the chests of the members of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, and I can promise you that that expression is already resounding off the walls of the United Nations. And it was also submitted as an argument against the Arab proposals, and not just by the Israeli delegation.

[Ben-'Ami] Ambassador Aridor, do you not think that an Israeli refusal to follow the Security Council's resolutions, as well as our rejection—which you detailed—of the conclusions of the UN secretary general's report, could still cause us to be linked by more and more parties to another country in the Middle East that also refuses to carry out Security Council resolutions?

[Aridor] The two things have nothing to do with each other. The Security Council has already issued a resolution stating that Jerusalem is occupied territory. So will Jerusalem, the capital of Israel for 3,000 years, turn into occupied territory because the Security Council made such a decision? Is that what decides things for us? Thank God, we are a sovereign people.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, Ambassador Aridor.

Kohen Returns; Ethiopia To Lift Restrictions

TA0611164890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Israel and Ethiopia have reached an understanding on the need to step up the pace of handling requests for family reunifications, our correspondent

Avraham Ben-Melekh was told by Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen after she returned from a tour of Addis Ababa. According to her, Ethiopia will revoke the quotas and all other restrictions on the emigration of Jews, asking nothing in return. Deputy Minister Kohen has already briefed the prime minister and the Jewish Agency chairman about her tour.

Agreement on Space Research Signed With USSR

TA0711095290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 90 p 1

[Report David Rudge]

[Text] Haifa—The first agreement for joint Soviet-Israel space research has been signed, and includes Israeli involvement in a planned landing on Mars, Technion [Israel Institute of Technology] president Prof. Ze'ev Tadmor told a press conference here yesterday.

The agreement was finalized in Moscow during four days of intensive discussions between a Technion delegation and representatives of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Tadmor said following his return to Israel on Monday.

"Projects already decided on include astrophysical and non-linear physics studies, an innovative X-ray telescope to be developed at the Technion, experiments on unmanned spacecraft, data reduction from space observatories, and an on-board computer for a planned Soviet exploratory mission to Mars," Tadmor said.

"Technion researchers expect to be involved in scientific aspects of a long-range series of missions for the exploration of Mars, culminating in a Mars landing in the year 2015," explained Prof. Gyora Shaviv, head of the Technion's Asher Space Research Center where the Israeli research will be carried out.

"The basic problem we will tackle in the Mars missions is related to the handling and control of spacecraft," said Shaviv, who participated in the Moscow discussions. He noted that the cooperation would enable each side to benefit from the other's strengths.

"The Soviet strength is everything to do with rockets, platform design, structure, stabilization and attitude control. The strength of Western, including Israeli scientists is in fine instrumentation, modern computers and sophisticated experimentation."

Tadmor said the agreement, which calls for collaboration in scientific and engineering space studies for peaceful purposes, will involve projects, some as yet unspecified, in various fields: X-ray astronomy and satellites, planetary exploration, instrumentation, solar-terrestrial physics, earth remote sensing and ecological monitoring.

In addition, an annual Soviet-Israeli conference will be held, alternating between the two countries. The first is to take place at the Technion this May, and 20 Soviet scientists are expected to attend.

Under the terms of the agreement, results of the joint studies will be the common property of both countries. Similarly, any financial benefits derived from products based on joint research and development work are to be shared.

The contacts which led to the signing of the agreement began informally when Soviet immigrant Prof. Leonid Lismen met Soviet scientists at a conference in Germany.

Lismen, who immigrated to Israel in the 1970s and is on the staff of the Asher center, was in Moscow with the Technion delegation, as was Henry Taub, chairman of the Technion's international board of governors.

The agreement, Tadmor said, is expected to be a forerunner of more wide-ranging accords for scientific cooperation in a variety of fields.

These are expected to be initiated during the scheduled visit to Israel later this month of the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, who is to be hosted by Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman.

Herzog To Attend Japan Coronation, Visit U.S.

TA0711101290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text] President Hayim Herzog is to attend the coronation of Japanese Emperor Akihito next Monday. He is also scheduled to meet Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who has recently completed a tour of the Middle East.

While in Japan, Herzog will also meet with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and the presidents of Germany and Romania, as well as with Kaifu's predecessor, Noburu Takeshita.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who yesterday announced the release of 77 Japanese hostages after meeting with former Japanese prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, has been struck from the list of invitees to the coronation, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned. A representative from Kuwait will attend.

Herzog represented Israel at the funeral in February last year of Akihito's father, Emperor Hirohito, at which time he met Hirohito's brother, a retired military officer well versed in biblical and archeological studies, who conversed with him in Hebrew.

Herzog's attendance then did much to improve relations between the two countries. Japan is now Israel's third largest trading partner after the U.S. and Germany; bilateral trade stands at $1.2 billion.

From Japan, Herzog will continue to the U.S., for the opening in San Francisco of the annual convention of the Council of Jewish Federations.

Jerusalem Sees 'Great Importance' in EC Visit

TA0611113090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] David Atkinson, an envoy on behalf of the EC, has arrived in Jerusalem to probe the impact of immigration from the Soviet Union on the condition of the Palestinian refugees in the territories. Jerusalem attributes great importance to the treatment to be accorded the visitor, in the framework of an attempt to prevent an anti-Israeli resolution.

Baker Reportedly Asked Qian To Convey Ultimatum

TA0611203390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that Secretary of State Baker asked Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to notify Saddam Husayn that the United States will go to war against Iraq within two weeks if it does not leave Kuwait by then. Baker and the PRC minister conferred at the Cairo International Airport this afternoon. From there, Baker went on to Ankara, and Qian left for several Middle East capitals, including Baghdad.

Aharon Barne'a, our Arab affairs reporter, heard from diplomatic sources in Cairo that the Chinese minister asked his U.S. counterpart to allow him to promote a compromise before the United States implements the military option. The Chinese minister referred to negotiations under UN auspices that aim at Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. Secretary Baker, however, said that the United States is not ready to hold any form of negotiations and is demanding that Iraq withdraws unconditionally.

Paper Disputes Government Position on Territories

TA0611164590 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Continuing Israeli Refusal"]

[Text] After the Israeli Government refused to receive the UN fact-finding mission about the al-Haram al-Sharif [Al-Aqsah mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] events of 8 October—within the context of its rejection of Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673—two days ago it also refused UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposal to convene a meeting of the 164 signatories of the Geneva Convention for the purpose of ensuring the protection of Palestinians under occupation.

It is surprising that the Israeli refusal this time came through an official statement issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman to the effect that the articles of the Geneva Convention—signed by Israel along with the other countries of the world—that pertain to "occupied territories" do not legally apply to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

What, therefore, is the status of our land occupied since 1967? Is it "part of the land of Greater Israel" as claimed by the extreme right-wing Israeli parties? Or is it merely "areas" as the prevailing Israeli propaganda term has it? Perhaps it is "administered areas": neither occupied, nor part of Israel, nor Palestinian.

The Israeli Government tries to mold international law to fit its own criteria through the names and terms it has given to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This, however, is purely an Israeli endeavor, and it will not have the slightest effect on international law. Occupation is occupation regardless of its form, kind, or status. Even the Israeli Government itself has not made any final decision on this issue since 1967. How, then, does an official spokesman of one of its ministries say that our occupied land is actually not occupied? And does Shamir's government imagine that with such a statement it can close the case or wipe out the existence of occupation?

New Immigration Record Set in Month of Oct

TA3110184190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] A new record in immigration to Israel was set in October. Approximately 21,000 immigrants arrived in Israel, 20,000 coming from the Soviet Union. Approximately 134,500 immigrants have arrived in Israel since the beginning of 1990.

Palestinian Figures Support Perez de Cuellar Plan

TA0611163890 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 5 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Hisham 'Abdallah]

[Text] U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's Nov. 1 proposal to provide protection for Palestinians was received positively in the occupied territories. Prominent Palestinians called it "a practical step, if it can overcome U.S. vetoes and Israeli rejection."

The secretary-general called for a meeting of the 164 countries which are signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention to discuss means to protect the Palestinian civilians under Israeli rule.

Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni described the secretary-general's proposal as "a positive one that we have often demanded."

Professor Sari Nusaybah said he believes the proposal might spark "new movement among the international community" on "often-raised" issues like the fate of Palestinians in the occupied territories. He suggested it might be "a first step toward self-determination for Palestinians."

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahar of the Doctors Association of the Gaza Strip said the plan is "more than welcome." The United Nations considers the occupied territories to be in a "war situation," which of course it is, al-Zahar says.

Because it is war, "United Nations' responsibility lies in sending international forces to separate both sides," he said.

Islamic Movement Wins Election in Galilee Village

TA0711130090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] In the village of Kabul, near 'Akko, the Islamic Movement won the local elections yesterday, according to the results disclosed this morning. It is the first Arab council in the Galilee and the sixth in all of Israel where the Islamic Movement is in control. The prime minister's adviser on arab affairs promises that Jerusalem will cooperate with the new council head if he deals only with local problems. [passage omitted]

IDF To Deploy New Pilotless Plane in 1991

TA0511112090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided to procure the new Searcher-type pilotless planes manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. These aircraft are expected to be deployed in the IDF next year.

The new model is intended for surveillance and intelligence gathering. It excels in its ability to hover over the target for more than 24 hours and in its low-altitude capability, which was made possible by an improvement in the wings' aerodynamic profile. The production costs decreased due to the application of model airplane manufacturing methods, instead of modes borrowed from the Kfir production line. An additional development is the ability to place an operational ground station to collect the data in the field, leaving the handling of instructions on takeoff, landing, and logistics for the rearguard positions—as per the currently practiced method.

As is well known, the IDF has revised its combat doctrine, basing it on unmanned aircraft, beginning with the first generation of the mini remote-piloted vehicle [RPV]. Now the RPV plant in the IAI's aircraft division is working on the development of civilian uses for the RPV, such as detecting radioactive fallout while penetrating the radioactive cloud itself. This project is conducted jointly with the Soreq Nuclear Power Station and the Geological Survey. [passage omitted]

Tourism Down for Month of Oct; Annual Total Up

TA0511113090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by David Mosheyof]

[Text] Incoming tourism suffered a 35 percent drop in October as a result of the Gulf crisis and the consequent cancellation of a considerable number of group tours which were due to arrive in Israel during that month.

Incomplete data amassed by the Tourism Ministry shows that in October 1990, approximately 91,000 tourists arrived in Israel by air, compared with 139,000 during October 1989—a drop of 35 percent.

The cumulative data, however, shows that not only did the total number of incoming tourists not decline in the first 10 months of 1990, it actually increased by three percent. The data shows that in January-October 1990, the number of incoming tourists stood at 1,222,000, while in the same period last year, only 1,181,000 tourists visited Israel. These figures show an increase of three percent in the volume of incoming tourism.

One of the causes of the decline in tourism to Israel is the cancellation of all the winter charter flights from Europe to Elat, which in former years were offered from October throughout the winter.

The Israeli Tourism Ministry and tourism bodies, as well as their various branches in Europe and the United States, have been making special efforts to persuade the various Jewish communities to send delegations to Israel to express solidarity in Israel's difficult time and thereby to increase and encourage tourism to Israel.

Commentary Criticizes Baker Tour of Region

JN0611200590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Nov 90 p 20

["Seven Days" column by Khalid Mahadin: "Guest's Rights and Host's Duty"]

[Text] The Americans are a truly strange breed.

Their truthfulness, courage, and integrity are such that they conceal neither their intentions nor their objectives. Further, they do suit the deed to the word.

A case in point is U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current tour of the region. Here he is, hopping around our capitals as though he is moving among bedrooms of his own house. The United States apparently does not sleep in one bedroom.

The ever dapper Mr. Baker—whether dressed in civilian clothes or in military uniform [as published]—has been saying that the aim of his trip is to work out with U.S. allies the scenario for the military option. In practice, this works out to be the logistics that the host will place at the disposal of the guest when an attack is mounted against Iraq.

With the American secretary made to feel more than usually welcome in the Gulf, one gets the impression that there is a reversal of roles between James Baker the guest and his Gulf hosts.

Before Baker set out on his journey to our capitals, he was worried that U.S. soldiers would find their hosts less than eager to provide the logistical support they would need.

Strikingly, Mr. Baker did not bother to conceal the aims of his trip. Nor did our brothers show any lack of generosity toward him. Indeed, some of them have gone so far as to demand from Washington an assurance of continued American presence even after the Gulf crisis is over. Such a demand as this can only come from astute people, who seem to know what the future has in store for them!!!

Speaking to American soldiers at Hafar al-Batin two days ago, James Baker told them they were stationed on American soil, considering whatever territory American soldiers tread upon to become rightfully theirs!! Baker went on to announce that the American nation is the greatest and the cream of the earth!! Except for Hitler's description of the German nation, such an expression has never passed the lips of any human being. It is an affront to Islam and the Koran that specified Muslims as the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong [koranic verses].

Some of his soldiers applauded right away, and all his hosts applauded when the translation of the secretary's speech was made available to them. The latter would certainly have liked the Iraqis to have been on hand just to see what wonders the superpower can work!!

The one phrase that failed to be translated was Baker's assertion to his soldiers that no one knows what the future has in store for them. The experience of Vietnam seems to be still fresh in the U.S. secretary's memory.

Paper Critical of 'Joint Command' Agreement

JN0711115790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Nov 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Indeed, It is a New Phase!"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state was not exaggerating when he said the Gulf crisis has entered a new phase. In fact, Mr. Baker's description of the phase barely fits his agreement with the Saudi leadership; an agreement under which Riyadh has given its approval for aggression against Iraq from Arab soil. Such an agreement has never been witnessed in the history of the Arab and Islamic nations; not even in the ages of decadence, weakness, and the full collapse of the values of loyalty, affiliation, and common concern.

What has been leaked about Mr. James Baker's meeting with the Saudi leadership after six hours of discussions and consultations places us before a real calamity showing that some Arabs are willing to join forces with the enemies against the rest of the Arab World, and that some Arab leaders are willing to provide all the means for the forces of invasion, aggression, and hegemony to carry out their conspiratorial plan against Arabism, Islam, and our future generations.

The U.S., British, and other hostile forces have come to the Arab Peninsula on the pretext of defending it against an alleged Iraqi aggression. However, what was agreed on and declared by the U.S. secretary and the Saudi and Egyptian leaders places us before a very serious chapter in the conspiracy against the Arab homeland and every hope for Arab advancement and liberation. The talk that foreign and Arab forces on Saudi soil would be subject to a joint command if the aim was to defend the Arabian Peninsula and subject to a U.S. command and Washington's decisionmaking if the aim was a direct strike at fraternal Iraq cannot deceive anyone, even the most naive. Such talk also cannot justify the calamitous decision which Saudi Arabia has taken or was made to accept.

Permitting imperialist forces to use Saudi territory in order to strike at Iraq is a grievous crime which cannot be mitigated, even if the command were solely American. Permitting a non-Islamic command to lead Arab and Islamic forces close to Mecca and al-Madinah is an extremely serious offense, constituting a real renegade step from Islam as well as from loyalty and affiliation to the Arab nation.

History and the masses of the Islamic and Arab nations will never pardon the perpetrators of such a crime. No one has ever imagined that the Arab soil of the Arabian Peninsula would become a springboard for a real, rancorous enemy to everything that is Arab and Muslim. No one also has imagined that this soil would be used by

tyrannical, invading forces to pounce on and strike at Iraq and the Iraqis and to destroy and annihilate a fraternal Arab and Muslim people.

Nevertheless, we are confident that the first victims of any U.S.-British-Zionist aggression from the Peninsula will be those who allowed the invaders to violate our sanctities and gave a free hand to the enemies to strike at our brothers. We believe that the politicians in Riyadh and Cairo who put their signatures to everything that Mr. Baker asked have in fact made a suicidal decision. Arabs and Muslims will not pardon them and their own peoples will not forgive them. Even their enemies will be the first to treat them with contempt and humiliation.

Indeed, a new phase has begun, as Mr. Baker said. But we must also add that it is a phase of awakening in which the U.S.-British-Israeli troika will not be able to determine the method or results of its aggression. The nation, which was and still is the best [Koranic verse], will know how to punish its enemies and their allies; those people who have learned the lessons of history. They will not have much time to learn either, once hell has been let loose and the earth starts shaking under their feet.

Those who do not derive strength from their peoples and nation and only depend on others are too weak to achieve victory and to face the difficult moment of reckoning when everything is afire.

Editorial on 'War Rhetoric' in Wake of Baker Tour

JN0611202390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour and the War Rhetoric"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region and the rhetoric that accompanied this tour, namely war statements and urgent calls for military action, is a new step in the continuing U.S. campaign to push the Gulf crisis closer and closer to the brink of confrontation.

Perhaps this was the aim of Baker's second visit to the region since the outbreak of the crisis. The visit was preceded and has been accompanied by a long series of statements on the approaching explosion, thus making the entire visit a part of the fierce psychological warfare that the Western alliance is waging to force Iraq to budge from its declared positions.

Regardless of the basic objectives of Baker's current tour, the continuous U.S. talk about the possibility of war will help push the Gulf in only one direction, one that leads to a terrible explosion, even though the United States itself is unwilling to reach the conclusion that peaceful means have been entirely exhausted.

Therefore, we believe that this atmosphere, which has been created by the war rhetoric accompanying the tours of Baker and other U.S. officials might lead to a serious downward turn toward war, an objective that may be behind the aims of those who call for war, including Thatcher, Shamir, and others among the rulers of the shaykhdoms—all of whom are plotting against a promising Arab future.

And while it is understandable that Israel should call for pushing the United States toward war against Iraq and that Margaret Thatcher should insist on a speedy move toward the battle, it is very difficult to understand that some Arabs should call for deciding the issue today rather than tomorrow, so that the region's map might be redrawn and Israel appointed guardian over this new map.

Beating the drums of war in the way we see in the Gulf and surrounding region and the unceasing talk about the approaching explosion will block every possible option to find a way out of this crisis. It will help give Washington a free hand to act according to its imperialist whims and Zionist leanings and decide the fate of this region and the destiny of its peoples and generations. America's Arab allies must view this process as a suicidal one that no sane person would commit and no healthy, rational human being would condone.

New Zealand's Lange Arrives en Route to Baghdad

JN0611202290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange arrived in Amman this evening en route to Baghdad.

In a statement to journalists upon arrival at Queen 'Alya' International Airport, Lange said that the purpose of his visit to Baghdad was to discuss the possibility of Iraq allowing New Zealander guests to leave since some New Zealanders had sent letters asking him to mediate so they could be allowed to leave Baghdad. He added that he hoped to meet with Iraqi President Sadam Husayn. He also stressed that New Zealand supported UN resolutions on the Gulf crisis and objected to U.S. policy in the region.

Captured French Soldiers Arrive From Iraq

NC0311164890 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, Nov 3 (AFP)—Three French soldiers captured Monday by Iraqi troops arrived here Saturday on their way home aboard a regular Iraqi Airways flight, correspondents at the Amman airport said.

They were expected to catch an Air France flight for Paris at 10:50 p.m. (2050 GMT), well-informed sources said. The soldiers had been handed over to the French Embassy in Baghdad after their capture on Monday.

Land Transport Agreement Signed With Turkey

JN0411083990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Turkish government has given consent for Jordanian trucks to carry goods

between Turkey and Jordan, according to an official announcement in Amman Saturday.

The announcement said that contacts with the Turkish government in Ankara through the Jordanian Embassy there resulted in securing the Turkish government's approval.

Jordan and Turkey signed a land transport agreement in 1988, allowing refrigerated trucks and lorries from Jordan to carry goods to either side or to neighbouring Arab states.

According to statistics here, nearly 4,000 lorries benefited from the agreement last year alone.

Most of the Kingdom's 12,000 trucks have been lying idle since the beginning of the Gulf crisis in August, and the government has recently cancelled contracts of foreign truck companies transporting phosphate and cement from the mines to the port city of al-'Aqabah or operating inside the Kingdom in order to make way for the Jordanian trucks to do the business.

Muhammad al-Sumadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Transport, said that the government was in contact with other countries in the region in order to help Jordanian lorry drivers.

According to al-Sumadi, the land transport sector used to account for 12 per cent of the total gross national product in Jordan, but the Gulf crisis has dealt a heavy blow to this sector and consequently to the national economy.

Al-Sumadi estimated the total losses sustained by the truck companies and private owners of trucks at JD [Jordanian dinar] 300 million. In addition to the trucks, Jordan has 1,650 refrigerated trucks, 1,700 tankers and an unspecified number of trailers which were active before the crisis, transporting products to and from Arab states.

In another development, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has raised the rate for transporting phosphate from the mines in southern Jordan to the port city of al-'Aqabah by 15 percent in a bid to encourage Jordanian truckers to carry larger amounts of phosphate to al-'Aqabah for export.

A JPMC spokesman said Saturday that before the Gulf crisis fleets of all types of trucks used to carry products from al-'Aqabah to other countries and to carry phosphate to the port city of their way there. "Now there is a shortage of trucks to do the job and the new offer to the truckers is expected to earn them more income and help the company export larger quantities of phosphate," the spokesman said.

Minister, U.S. Envoy Discuss Aid for Tourism

JN0611213790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 6 Nov (PETRA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of tourism and antiquities, met today with U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roger Harrison.

During the meeting, they discussed the effects of the situation in the Gulf on the tourism sector in Jordan and the aid extended by the U.S. Agency for International Development to support tourism projects in Jordan.

The minister expressed hope that Jordan would not be excluded from tourism programs in view of its ability in terms of security, stability, and competitive prices to receive various tourist groups.

Dismissed RJ Employees Return From Saudi Arabia

JN0711083090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 6 Nov (PETRA)—Seventeen Royal Jordanian [RJ] pilots, engineers, and technicians on loan to the Saudi airlines have returned to Amman following the termination of their contracts.

A responsible Royal Jordanian source has said that the Saudi airlines explained that the contracts of the Jordanian pilots, technicians, and engineers were terminated due to the airline's present situation as a result of the Gulf crisis and because the airline has canceled some of its routes and merged others, which resulted in laying off some pilots.

Husam Abu-Ghazalah, Royal Jordanian executive president, had discussed this issue with the director general of the Saudi airlines on the sidelines of the recent Arab Air Transport Agency conference in Geneva.

Al-Hirawi on Greater Beirut, Hostages, 'Awn

NC0611182790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that the greater Beirut plan may be implemented within the next two weeks. The greater Beirut area will include the capital and its environs, forming a semicircle with a radius ranging from 15 to 25 km. Only the Lebanese Army will be allowed to carry weapons in this area, which will serve as an example for tomorrow's Lebanon.

In an interview with the French paper LE MONDE, al-Hirawi said that during his recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, he brought up the issue of the hostages of all nationalities and requested Syria's help in bringing about their release.

President al-Hirawi said that General Michel 'Awn cannot be allowed to leave the country without punishment. He said that 'Awn should answer to three grave charges: seizing public funds, causing wars, and mutiny.

Al-Hirawi on Role of Militia Chiefs, Army

NC0711071990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has declared that the post-greater Beirut era will witness the formation of a national accord government. This government, President al-Hirawi added, will include six portfolios of ministers of state which will be occupied by the heads of the militias.

President al-Hirawi pointed out that greater Beirut, which could be established within two weeks, will include the capital and its suburbs, forming a semicircle with a radius ranging from 15 to 25 km. This area, in which more than half the population of the country resides, will constitute the lifeline of the country.

In an interview to appear in the newspaper LE MONDE today, President al-Hirawi said: Greater Beirut will allow us to perform our duty effectively. Greater Beirut must turn to an oasis of peace and a positive image of Lebanon. He added: We no longer need crossing points. We simply need roads along which people can walk without fear.

In his interview, President al-Hirawi noted that it was impossible for Muslim soldiers to enter Christian-held areas and vice versa. This issue, however, is no longer our concern. I have great hopes that greater Beirut will soon come into existence, the president added.

Touching on the role of the Lebanese Army, President al-Hirawi said that all Army units will be mixed and that Army Commander General Emile Lahhud is now in charge of Army deployment. The president stressed that in addition to his original force of 24,000 men, Gen. Lahhud has regained control of 12,000 troops who were under the command of Michel 'Awn. Gen. Lahhud is currently trying to merge all units under his command, the president added.

President al-Hirawi went on to say that the Army has resolved all matters, noting that the problem in the two al-Matn regions has been solved without confrontation.

President al-Hirawi lauded Syrian support for Lebanon, adding that Syrian intervention was essential in restoring the state's authority and ending 'Awn's rebellion. He emphasized that 'Awn will not leave the French Embassy before justice is done.

Al-Musawi Discusses Greater Beirut, Resistance

NC0311110890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi has stressed that the issue of greater Beirut must be examined in an enlightened and responsible way. He said that Beirut is a place where all the armed anarchists who tamper with the people's security are mixed together. This, he said, poses a great danger to Beirut and to Lebanon. He said: As a revolutionary Islamic group, we will be harmed if this state of affairs collapses. In a statement to our radio, he said: We want a country with a solid base to confront Israel and global arrogance and, consequently, achieve our Islamic plan and goals.

Al-Musawi said: Our ambition is to accept only God's rule on earth, but as long as it is impossible to reach this goal under these circumstances, the bottom line is to stop the deterioration that might destroy this country and the Islamic trend. This is why we adopted a positive stand on the Greater Beirut Plan.

Responding to a question on the Lebanese Army, al-Musawi said that if the U.S. and Israeli factors influence the country's course, we will not trust the Lebanese Army because it will serve America, Israel, and the Maronites. Under the current circumstances, however, the United States is not capable of exerting an effective influence on Lebanon and Israeli influence is weak as a result of the Islamic Resistance. In addition, there is a strong Syrian influence as well as a Syrian-Iranian agreement on Lebanon. Given these circumstances, if the government thinks about deploying the Army in Beirut and in southern Lebanon, and consults with all parties, we believe that the situation does not warrant concern. This is so even if the Army includes elements, and is subject to influences, that are unacceptable to us.

Al-Musawi affirmed that we have received pledges that the Islamic Resistance, its youth, and weapons will be safeguarded and that resistance will be guaranteed. If the Army fulfills these pledges, there will be no problems. If the Army does not keep these promises, however, we will shoulder our responsibilities as we have in the past.

On Hizballah's participation in the government, al-Musawi stressed that this issue is under discussion. He said: We are

watching the nature of the government and its policy to define our stand on government participation.

Hizballah Delegation Returns; Al-Musawi Comments

NC0711074390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] A meeting was held in Damascus yesterday evening between Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the Hizballah leadership headed by Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli. The meeting was also attended by a number of Hizballah Shura Council members and [Islamic Amal leader] Husayn al-Musawi.

Speaking after the meeting, brother al-Musawi said the meeting was positive and agreement was reached on implementing all articles of the agreement signed by Hizballah and the Amal Movement on Monday [5 November] evening as well as the articles of the Damascus agreement. He pointed out that the implementation of the agreement will begin on 10 November. The members of the Hizballah delegation returned to Lebanon last night.

Army To Establish Checkpoints Around Beirut

NC0711140890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Security sources have stated that the Lebanese Army Command has adopted several measures to facilitate the travel of citizens between the greater Beirut areas and to tighten search operations at the checkpoints leading to and from greater Beirut.

The Army Command has decided to establish checkpoints in three directions at every Army roadblock to facilitate the search and travel processes. Meanwhile, Army engineering units are removing barricades and clearing the roads in order to widen them and increase their capacity. In another development, the Army Command has announced that the engineering department will detonate duds in the vicinity of al-Qulay'at today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow. Citizens are warned to exercise caution.

Army To Deploy Battalions in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC0711072890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Preparations are under way to implement the Damascus agreement signed between the Amal and Hizballah leaders two days ago. The agreement aims to end the fighting and to regulate the relations between the two sides under direct Syrian-Iranian supervision.

Meanwhile, intensive contacts are taking place to effect the deployment of two Lebanese Army battalions in Iqlim al-Tuffah in accordance with the agreement's provisions. Additional steps of a humanitarian nature have also been taken. These measures, which will take effect beginning 10 November, concern the supply of foodstuffs and water to all villages, the evacuation of the wounded, and the release of all prisoners.

Lahd Rejects Withdrawal From Jazzin Area

NC0711074590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd has stressed that he will not withdraw from the Jazzin region because of its strategic importance to the border region. He said that the SLA is capable of confronting any aggression. Lahd indicated that he has no faith in the current security arrangements in Beirut.

SSNP Vacates Phalangist Centers, Apartments

NC0711133990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Operating on the defense minister's instructions to the Army Command, Joint Military Coordination Committee teams at noon today began supervising the vacating of gunmen from Phalangist Party centers and apartments. These centers and apartments were confiscated on 13 October and placed under the control of the Army. According to reports made available to the Voice of Lebanon, the first phase of the process includes vacating the centers and apartments in al-Hazimiyah, al-Tahwitah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and Bikfayya.

At 1300 today an explosion occurred in the Phalangist branch in 'Awkar. According to initial reports, the explosion occurred shortly after the center was vacated by Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] members.

A short while ago our correspondent reported that the first phase of vacating the party centers had been completed.

Ja'ja' Reportedly Met With Israeli Intelligence

NC0611183490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] According to security reports from the eastern area, the organs of the so-called Lebanese Forces sent individuals to the two al-Matn regions in the past few days to carry out operations against military barracks there and acts of vengeance against a number of officers who formerly supported General Michel 'Awn. The reports add that a list of the names of these individuals has been submitted to the Army command and other concerned security departments. It was revealed today that several of these individuals returned to the area carrying permits issued by some state security departments. Citizens and observers have warned against the cover which is being provided today to these individuals. They noted that similar cover was provided in previous years to the same Lebanese Forces individuals, particularly in 1982, with the result that kidnappings and acts of detention and terrorism against citizens were carried out under legal cover.

At the same time, AL-SHARQ published a report, which it described as authentic, stating that a senior Israeli intelligence officer met four days ago with Samir Ja'ja', commander of the so-called Lebanese Forces, in an Israeli submarine within Lebanese territorial waters off the Juniyah coast. The venue in this case was different from previous meetings, which took place in semipublic places belonging to the Lebanese Forces. This seems to indicate that Ja'ja' is seeking, at this stage, to conceal his contacts with the Israelis as much as possible and to continue manipulating the government by proclaiming his support for the al-Ta'if agreement while working underhandedly to undermine it.

Council Formed To Investigate Top Officials

NC0611200790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies today held a general session and elected 10 deputies to the Higher Council for the Trial of Presidents and Ministers [HCTPM]. Deputies Nasr al-Ma'luf, Khatchig Babikian, Mahmud 'Ammar, Najah Wakim, Jamil Kibbah, Tawfiq 'Assaf, and August Bakhus are to sit as original members of the HCTPM, while Deputies Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, 'Abdu 'Uwaydat, and Emile Ruhana al-Saqr are to serve as alternate members. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, three decrees have been issued referring the following crimes to the judiciary council:

1. The Nahr al-Mawt incident [in which demonstrators loyal to General Michel 'Awn were fired upon].
2. The usurpation of political authority and militry command by officers Michel 'Awn, Edgar Ma'luf, and 'Isam Abu-Jamrah.
3. The assassination of Engineer Dany Sham'un.

Justice Minister Edmond Rizq has named three judges as investigating magistrates in these cases. Justice Munif Hamdan, president of the Beirut Criminal Court, will lead the investigation into the Nahr al-Mawt case. Justice Labib Zuwayn, Beirut's top investigating magistrate, is to lead the investigation into the case of 'Awn and his aides. Justice Munir Hunayn, president of the al-Biqa' Criminal Court, is to head the investigation into the Sham'un case.

UN Forces Stop Israelis From Inserting Battery

First Such Attempt in UN Area

NC0711073590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Soldiers of the Norwegian contingent attached to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] prevented an Israeli patrol from introducing a surface-to-surface missile battery into the contingent's area of operations in Ibil al-Saqy yesterday. An Israeli military vehicle rammed and damaged a UNIFIL jeep which was blocking the road to the Israeli patrol.

The Norwegian soldiers immediately assumed defensive positions in case the Israelis tried to advance. After some 30 minutes, the Israeli patrol returned to the Marj 'Uyun barracks. A state of tension prevailed in the area.

UNIFIL said this was the first time the Israelis had tried to bring a missile battery into UNIFIL's area of operations since the force deployed in Lebanon in 1978.

IDF Says Area Jointly Controlled

TA0711121190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Nov 90 p 10

[Report by news agencies and military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpts] Soldiers belonging to the Norwegian contingent attached to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] yesterday prevented an Israeli Army patrol from placing a missile launcher in the contingent's area of operations in south Lebanon. This was reported yesterday by a UNIFIL spokesman. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman commented yesterday, saying that the road in question is inside the security zone, which is under IDF and South Lebanese Army control. It is used for routine IDF traffic, and UNIFIL has no authority to block traffic there. The spokesman added that the issue will be discussed this morning with UNIFIL Headquarters. Our military reporter Dani Sade adds: An IDF armored vehicle hit a land mine yesterday while conducting operational activity northeast of Marj 'Uyun. There were no casualties.

Syrian Party Blames Lebanese Forces for Explosion

NC0711152190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] REUTER has quoted a security source as saying that one person was killed and seven others wounded when a booby-trapped car exploded this afternoon in 'Awkar near a building that previously served as an office for the Phalangist Party.

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Emergency Command [SSNP] accused the Lebanese Forces of detonating the booby-trapped car. A statement issued by the party said that the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist school, the captives of isolationism and Zionizm, have made it a habit to follow the methods of their Jewish masters, with a view to obstructing any reconciliatory step made by the state. Therefore, the Lebanese Forces well deserve to be called the Jews of the inside. Today, in an attempt to blackmail the legitimate government, these elements detonated a booby-trapped car that was parked in 'Awkar circle, near a center for social, popular, and medical services. The explosion killed and wounded a number of citizens, including three journalists.

[At 1445 GMT on 7 November, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic adds, "A responsible source in

the Lebanese Forces has expressed regret and denunciation of the explosion that took place in 'Awkar and said it is directed against the legitimacy and the trend of security and reconciliation.

"The source expressed astonishment at the association by anyone of the Lebanese Forces with the explosion and denied any involvement, direct or indirect, of the Lebanese Forces in this explosion."]

Security Zone Bomb Prepared by SLA Official

TA0411083690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The booby-trapped car that was discovered in the security zone last week was prepared by 'Ali Tulhas, a resident of the area who holds a high-ranking position in the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. The man, who has a record of dealing in drugs, fled to Sidon a few hours before the car bomb was set to explode. [passage omitted]

Israeli Soldier Killed in Blast in South

NC0711105690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] An Israeli soldier has been killed and an armored vehicle destroyed. According to a report by the South Lebanese Army radio, the incident occurred when an explosive charge was detonated near an Israeli patrol in the security zone.

Hizballah Radio on Renewed Anti-Israel Resistance

NC0711131490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Political commentary: "The Agreement That Is To Be Implemented"]

[Excerpts] The second Damascus agreement which was signed yesterday will strengthen the role of the resistance and secure a united front by guaranteeing security and a normal life for our kinfolk. This was the comment of Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli after signing the agreement. [passage omitted]

That which we have always called for, before so many fell and before so much was destroyed, was achieved yesterday. We have always maintained that the problem between Hizballah and the Amal Movement should be solved through understanding and agreement. We have reiterated that all parties should look to earlier agreements as the premise for any understanding. We have repeated this stance and advised others to keep the lines of communication open, to avoid burning all bridges, and to keep things from reaching the point of no return. This is because the brothers and comrades who may quarrel as a result of unclear vision on the part of some are fated to come together to reach understanding and agreement.

What counts now is that the vision should be clear and obstacles removed. What is important is that the resistance should be reactivated and its operations resumed. Too much time has gone by without operations by the resistance. The resistance men have had enough suffering, torment, and blockade. The resistance must return to the arena of confrontation. It must resume its call for struggle and for fighting the enemy. God willing, the resistance will again address the sons of Islam in Palestine, shoulder some of their burdens, and share their joy at victory over the Zionists and their sorrow over the usurpation of the holy places. This is our promise to Palestine's children, men, and women. This is our pledge to the strugglers of the occupied land, its stones, its daggers, and its arms. This is the resistance men's promise to our kinfolk in the border strip and in the occupied villages. The resistance will return after the siege is lifted to play its natural role in resisting the occupation until liberation and the elimination of Zionist oppression and injustice. The men of the resistance pledge to the great departed imam of the mujahidin that the compass of jihad will remain pointing at Jerusalem and captive Palestine. This is the vow of the resistance to our kinfolk in Lebanon. Without the resistance's struggle and operations, the Zionists will not leave Lebanon. [passage omitted]

U.S. Official Arrives in Damascus 7 Nov

JN0711103690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1013 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] John Kelly, [U.S.] assistant secretary for near eastern and south asian affairs, arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at the airport by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister, and Hani Halimah, assistant to the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Iranian Vice President Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0611141090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Hasan Habibi, vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Damascus at 1130 today after a four-day visit to Syria. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam led those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport. He was also seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari.

After shaking hands with the ministers and the Iranian Embassy staff, Habibi, accompanied by Khaddam, walked to the dais, at which point the national anthems of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic were played. Habibi then reviewed the guard of honor.

Paper Says UK Not Concerned About Own Hostages

JN0711130190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] The chief editor of the pro-government Syrian paper AL-THAWRAH today attacked the British Government, accusing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of torpedoing many opportunities which had arisen for the release of British hostages in Lebanon. The chief editor expressed the opinion that the British Government itself has not done anything to create the right circumstances for the release of its citizens.

The chief editor added: Nobody expects Syria to replace the British Government in showing concern for the British hostages. If the Thatcher government was concerned about its citizens, it would have improved the situation with Syria and restored relations with it. It is only then that the appropriate circumstances would be created that would prompt Damascus to exert maximum effort to search for British hostages in Lebanon and obtain their release.

Salman Meets UK Delegation, Discusses Issues

JN0411161790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1517 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman received a delegation this morning from the Syrian Arab Society in Britain, headed by Mr. Ma'mun Darkazali, the society's president.

During this meeting, the information minister reviewed the overall Arab and international situation in the region, particularly in the Gulf and Lebanon, and Syria's firm and principled stands on these issues.

Mr. Salman touched on the current nature of Syrian-British ties and the various reasons that led to severing them. He also noted Syria's rejection of the U.S. policy to arm Israeli troops and bolster their military arsenal.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the minister answered questions and queries raised by the delegation. He stressed the important role that the Syrian Arab Society [in Britain] can play in explaining the Syrian position to the British people.

UK-Based Businessmen Briefed on Economic Policy

JN0511191890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 5 Nov (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi today received a delegation of the Syrian Arab Society in Britain, which is made up of Syrian businessmen, factory and trade company owners, bankers, and economists residing in Britain.

During the meeting, al-Zu'bi briefed them on the economic policy in Syria. This policy has made great strides in terms of economic and social development in light of the strong political stability, democracy, and economic pluralism, which strengthened the objective of the public, private, and joint sectors to integrate and make Syria a country capable of self-reliance, able to depend on its agricultural and industrial capabilities.

He explained to the delegation members the future approach which will allow a greater opportunity for investments and for Syrians investors residing in Syria or abroad to contribute to achieving agricultural and industrial advancement and trade activity, which will balance Syria's needs and help place its products in foreign markets through the many measures focussing on encouraging industry and agriculture, expanding export channels, and providing various facilities for exporters.

The delegation members thanked al-Zu'bi for his briefing and stressed their belief in Syria's ability and their confidence in Syria's political and economic trend under President Hafiz al-Asad, while also stresssing their readiness to serve their homeland.

A constructive and frank dialogue was conducted on the various economic, industrial, agricultural issues and on the laws regulating them. The dialogue also covered a number of proposals that contribute to developing the national economy and expanding the investment fields.

U.S. Called On To Admit Israeli 'Crimes'

JN0611211590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Crimes That Require Urgent Deterrents," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH said: Israel

turned its back on the two Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673 and continued to carry out its oppression policy in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH said that the events in the occupied territories are no longer secret to anyone, despite the intentional blackout. Neither the United States nor anyone else in the world is ignorant of the fact that Israel continues its oppressive and expansionist policy and scoffing at Security Council resolutions because Washington continues to provide it with all types of support and help.

AL-THAWRAH added that this will never serve any international moves toward detente, peace, and security.

The newspaper called on the United States to call things by their real names and stop describing Israel's crimes and terrorism in the occupied territories as excessive use of force, because what Israel is doing is not excessive use of force but a planned policy whose goal is to expand, Zionize Jerusalem, expel Arab citizens, and threaten the region with wars whose results cannot be predicted.

The newspaper concluded its article by saying that, if international opinion does not move to deter Israeli aggression, then many bloody tragedies will take place in the occupied territories and many dangers will loom over the region.

Paper Calls On Arabs To Pressure Iraq, U.S.

JN0311074190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Constants and Self-Evident Facts Between the Conflict and Dispute," AL-THAWRAH says: Thus, the American and Western arsenals and fleets are moving on a red carpet laid by the Iraqi regime in the Gulf. And this is the American-Western programming of the plot. Under the umbrella of the American naval fleets and the saber rattling in the Gulf, Israel is given the most sophisticated U.S. missiles as a part of the ill-omened Star Wars program so that Israel will carry out its aggression against our nation.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Arabs should know full well the danger of what America has done and what it is arranging for them with Israel. They should review their stand on America in light of this continuous support for Israel in terms of weapons, ammunition, and funds. They should also realize that Iraq played a direct and planned role in arranging this game as we see it now. And the series of events is evidence of this.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If politics, as it is said, is measured by its results—and this is always correct—Iraq was behind all this and behind every ordeal and catastrophe that will be inflicted on the Arabs in the near future. We, as Arabs, should pressure with all the means of pressure we have—and the means we possess are very effective—and should move on two parallel levels simultaneously to achieve an immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to save Iraq from being slaughtered and to save the nation from a terrible catastrophe whose consequences and dimensions are unpredictable before the military option becomes the only way out. We should also endeavor to abort the expected aggressive Zionist scheme by putting pressure on America to stop supplying Israel with the stated weapons and ammunition.

Paper Says Arabs Only Decisionmakers in Region

JN0411065990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Detente Policy," AL-BA'TH asserts in one of its commentaries today that all the peoples on earth have welcomed the end of the cold war which lasted for many years. Moreover, all peoples expressed satisfaction with the detente policy which started to appear on the international horizon.

AL-BA'TH continues: All this satisfaction and welcome came in the hope that the policy of aggression and expansion and seizure of people's rights by military force and threats to use force would come to an end. However, now that some time has passed since the beginning of this international detente policy, the world has noticed that what is happening is completely the opposite. For the United States has not changed its old policy; in fact, the opposite might be true. For example, instead of applying the supposed pressure on the Zionist enemy to accept various international resolutions and to abandon the policy of aggression and expansion, the United States has provided all that which could encourage and prompt Israel to reject international resolutions and thereafter continue the policy of aggression and expansion.

AL-BA'TH notes the huge U.S. financial support which amounted to $4 billion, most of which will be allocated to the Israeli settlement policy, in addition to the very modern weapons Washington has lavished on Tel Aviv.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The Arabs alone are the ones who should be the decisionmakers in this region because they are one nation; their future is one; and their destiny is one. It is impossible for them to allow anyone—whoever he may be—to tamper with their homeland and capabilities. The Arabs' primary issue has been, and will always remain, the issue of the Palestinian people. The Zionist danger is the gravest danger to all Arabs without exception.

Afghanistan

Rebels Bombard Kabul Despite Government Claims

BK0711115890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 (AFP)—Kabul international airport remained shut Wednesday, a day after mujahidin guerrillas fired a barrage of rockets in the area, airline officials said here. An Ariana Afghan Airline flight from New Delhi was turned back Tuesday morning as an unusually heavy barrage of rockets hit the airport located on the city's northern fringe.

An airport spokesman said the flight was rescheduled to arrive here Wednesday morning but had again been turned back because of "security concerns." An Ariana flight from Kabul to Moscow Wednesday had also been postponed indefinitely because of the airport closure, the spokesman said. Ariana is the only airline to operate out of Kabul airport.

On Tuesday at least nine rockets hit the airport which is also used as a base by the Afghan Air Force and several military personnel received minor injuries, the spokesman said. There was no damage to the airport passenger terminal building or aircraft but some rockets exploded near the runway, a source said.

The rockets also hit several residential areas in the city's west, southeast and northeast. The government put the casualties at one civilian dead and 13 wounded. Residents here reported intense activity by Afghan Air Force helicopter gunships, and military observers said the aircraft were headed towards mujahidin rocket launching positions around the city.

The rockets fired Tuesday were identified as Egyptian-made Sakar 20 and 30 type rockets which have a range of between 20 to 30 kilometres (12 to 18 miles). The stepped up rocketting came two days after the government claimed it had destroyed some 23 positions of the militants around Kabul and that the guerillas had been pushed back. The mujahidin are trying to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul regime. More than a million people have lost their lives in the fighting in the past 12 years.

Kabul Garrison Conducts Military Operations

LD0611172690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Units and companies included in the Kabul garrison general command have continued their mopping up operations at the direction of south of Kabul and have severely crushed war monger extremists. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] military section reports that as a result of these operations, including two ringleaders namely Soltan Habib and Hazar Gol, a number of extremists have been crushed. Two kalashnikovs, 250 surface-to-surface missile rockets and 170 mortar mines were seized. Two BM-12 units, three rocket launchers, two mortars, a gun, and three vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition of the extremists were either destroyed or rendered useless. The units are successfully continuing mopping up operations in this direction.

Forty warmonger extremists were captured yesterday as a result of an ambush by officials of the state security of Farah in the area of Kolanzada, in Belakot of the province. The BIA military section reports: During the ambush one kalashnikov and one rocket launcher were captured and two vehicles carrying their arms and ammunition were set ablaze with its contents.

A convoy of arms and ammunition of the extremist group of Gulbuddin was captured yesterday by officials of the state security of the province of Jowzjan during an ambush in the area of the province. The BIA military section reports: As a result of the ambush a number of the convoy guards were crushed and five other were captured along with a set of BM1, a BK machinegun [as heard], three (RTP) machine guns, six kalashnikov, 100 rounds of heavy weapons ammunition, two motorcycles, and one warmonger extremists' vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition was destroyed.

Bangladesh

Paper Reports on Five-Year Development Plan

BK0611135790 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Oct 90 p 1, 10

[Text] The country's Taka 68,930 crore Fourth Five-year Plan was Monday approved at a meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the chair, reports BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sanstha].

The allocation in the public sector under the Fourth Five-year plan, which began from July 1 this year, was shown at Taka 41,930 crore (in terms of valuation under fiscal 1989-90) while investment in the private sector has been estimated at Taka 27,000 crore. The growth rate in the plan has been fixed at five percent while priorities are given to six sectors like: construction of Jamuna multipurpose bridge, flood control, power generation, education, health and family plannings, and human resources development.

President Ershad, who is also the Chairman of NEC, while summing up discussion on the plan, called for putting in concerted efforts by all concerned with total commitment to implement properly the projects as envisaged in the plan.

He said the Fourth Five-year Plan had been formulated, breaking with the past tradition and on a new slate to generate resources to acheive self-reliance. He said the successes and failures of the Third Five-year Plan have to be evaluated deeply so that the impediments towards implementing the projects for national development could be identified and removed.

President Ershad underscored the need for putting in allout efforts for increased mobilisation of domestic resources and urged the planners to prepare a recommendation in this regard. Vice-President Moudud Ahmed, who is in charge of the Planning Ministry, gave an outline of the Fourth Five-year Plan at the meeting, held at the Planning Commission while Dr. Maksud Ali, member of the Planning Commission, and Secretary Kazi Shamsul Alam explained the salient features of the plan.

Jute Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Agriculture Minister Sardar Amjad Hussain, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Labour Minister Sirajul Hossain Khan, Health Minister Aziaur Rahman and Women Affairs Minister Razia Faiz participated in the discussion. Ministers, secretaries and sectoral chiefs of the planning commission were present.

President Ershad said only 3.8 percent growth rate was achieved as against the target of 5.4 percent in the Third Five-Year Plan. He however, said such achievement should not be ignored as the growth rate was affected by two sucessive severe calamities. He urged the experts to formulate the plan keeping in view the future, like what would happen in the 21st century.

President Ershad drew the attention of all ministries to the administrative bottlenecks which, he said, had hindered the implementation of many projects in the past. He asked them to remove all administrative bottlenecks for smooth implementtion of development project to accelerate the pace of national economic progress.

President Ershad was happy to note that this was for the first time the country's development plan was formulated by our own experts keeping in view the hopes and aspirations of the people. In this context he stressed the need for reducing dependence on foreign aid and foreign advisers. President Ershad said it was for the first time that steps had been taken to involve country's women population in the mainstream of development programme.

He said henceforth work on budget start from January and added that he would set up a committee in this regard. Mr. Moudud Ahmed said the main objectives of the plan were to alleviate poverty, generation of resources.

He said strategies had been made in the plan to strengthen the private sector, particularly agriculture. He said the growth rate in the plan had been fixed at five percent and pointed out that revenue earnings had to be increased by nine percent while expenditure needed to be cut by four percent to achieve the target.

The Vice-President said keeping in view natural disaster and the Middle East crisis a three-year rolling plan had to be taken within the five-year plan, fixing priority areas. He pleaded for strengthening the "reward and punishment" system in the administration.

Dr. Moksud Ali said the plan had been formulated with the political commitment of President Ershad. He said for the first time the draft of a five-year plan had been placed before the people for evaluation by economists and experts. Even the critics, he said, had accepted the plan as it contained the hopes and aspirations of the masses.

India

Dissident Janata Members Declared 'Unattached'

BK0611165590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The political crisis at the center has been thrown into further confusion with the 25 Lok Sabha MP's [members of parliament] of the breakaway Janata Dal, including its leader Mr. Chandra Shekhar, being declared as unattached members of the house. The declaration by the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, followed their expulsion from the party last evening.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, who met the president, along with the Janata Dal chief, told Mr. Venkataraman that no unattached member of parliament should be invited to form a government, maintaining that such persons have no political mandate.

However, Mr. Chandra Shekhar asserted that there is no bar on any unattached member to form a government. He also sought recognition for his group in the Lok Sabha as the Janata Dal-Socialist and submitted to the speaker a memorandum signed by 58 MP's. Our correspondent says that a peccant situation seems to have arisen as the former deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, and his colleagues, not expelled from the party, will be bound by the National Front whip to vote in favor of the V.P. Singh government in the Lok Sabha tomorrow. Otherwise, they will attract the provision of the anti-defection law.

The Congress-I and the breakaway group of Janata Dal have decided to work together and the modalities of the cooperation are being finalized to set up a new government. Mr. Chandra Shekhar had an hour-long meeting with the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Emerging out of their discussions, both the leaders did not spell out if they would go in for a coalition. A small committee comprising Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and Mr. Chimanbahi Patel has been formed to work out details of the nature of cooperation. The Congress-I parliamentary board which is now in session is expected to announce its stand later tonight.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar met the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [Presidential Residence] around noon. He, however, told waiting newsmen that he has not staked his claim for forming the government, saying the stage has not come as yet. Mr. Chandra Shekhar emphatically spoke in the negative to a question whether his alliance with the Congress-I might go the 1979 way [when the Congress-I-supported Charan Singh government collapsed]. He said he is quite sure that the past will not be repeated.

Both Mr. Chandra Shekhar and members of his group have questioned the authority of Mr. V.P. Singh to expel them from the party when they had formed a distinct group yesterday morning itself. In identical letters to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, they maintained that the Janata Dal has split vertically.

The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, had a meeting with four leaders of different parties on the eve of the special session [of the Lok Sabha].

According to the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, the party's effective strength in the Lok Sabha has been reduced to 115. He also said more expulsions cannot be ruled out. Mr. Reddy said the Janata Dal is not worried about the fall of the government as its fate was known last month itself when Mr. Advani's Rath Yatra [chariot journey to the disputed shrine] was stopped.

A delegation of the official Janata Dal group led by Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. S.R. Bommai submitted a letter to the president, saying the demand of the breakaway group for recognition is not legally valid as they do not constitute one-third of the total party's strength under the provisions of the anti-defection law. They also gave a list of 25 MP's from the Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha who have been expelled. Mr. V.P. Singh told reporters at Rashtrapati Bhavan that the Janata Dal is willing to join a national government if all parties agree, but such a government should include left parties and not the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

Mr. Bommai said Mr. Venkataraman told them that the question of inviting a new leader to form a new government will arise only after tomorrow's voting in parliament.

Our correspondent says the center of activity is slowly shifting to the Rashtrapati Bhavan even before the special Lok Sabha session is held. Several political leaders and constitutional experts are meeting the president. They include the Supreme Court Bar Association president, Mr. K.K. Venugopal, and the former attorney general, Mr. K. Prasaran. The attorney general, Mr. Soli Sorabjee, has already had a meeting with the president. Among the political leaders who are meeting Mr. Venkataraman tonight include Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, Mr. R.K. Hegde, and Mr. P. Upendra.

Meanwhile, the president has accepted the resignation of Mrs Maneka Gandhi from the V.P. Singh ministry.

Party Endorses Gandhi Cooperation With Shekhar

BK0611130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I parliamentary party has endorsed the decision of the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to work together with the Janata Dal-Chandra Shekhar group to form a new government. At its meeting in New Delhi this evening, the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, apprised the members about the political developments and said that Congress-I will not have any truck with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

Janata Dal 'Not Worried' About Government Fall

BK0611131290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal president. Mr. Bommai, is contemplating action agains the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, for his antiparty activities. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen in New Delhi today that more expulsions of some Lok Sabha members of the Janata Dal cannot be ruled out. He said after the expulsion of 25 members, the party's effective strength in the Lok Sabha has been reduced to 115. Mr. Reddy said all the members have been issued a whip by the leader of the parliamentary party, Mr. V.P. Singh, to vote for the confidence motion tomorrow. He said any violation of the whip would lead to instant disqualification of the membership of the house.

Mr. Reddy described the breaking away of some members of the party led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar as a crisis in the party and not a split. Mr. Jaipal Reddy said that the attempt of Mr. Chandra Shekhar to walk along with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is outrageously opportunistic. He said Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who has won seat in the name of Mr. V.P. Singh, has no moral right to go with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

He said the Janata Dal is not worried about the fall of the government tomorrow because, he said, it was known as early as the 22d of last month when Mr. Advani's Rath Yatra [chariot journey to the disputed shrine] was stopped. Mr. Reddy said the process of the exposure of an unholy alliance between the Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and the Janata Dal rebels will be completed tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the speaker has declared unattached all the 25 members who were expelled by the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for their antiparty activities. The dissident Janata Dal MP [member of parliament], Mr. Manubhai Kataria, who was also expelled, told our correspondent that all the 25 MPs have received a letter to this effect from the speaker. Mr. Kataria also claimed that four independent members from the Lok Sabha have also expressed support to the Chandra Shekhar group.

Shekhar Promises To Form Stable Government

BK0611145390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Chandra Shekhar has said the Lok Sabha speaker's action in declaring him and 24 other members of parliament as unattached members does not constitute any threat to the efforts to form a stable government. Addressing a crowded news conference in New

Delhi this evening, he said there is no ban in the Constitution to form a government by an unattached member. He said his dal [party] will be known as the Janata Dal-Socialist.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he has met the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, after a delegation of his dal submitted a memorandum to the speaker signed by 58 MP's [members of parliament] seeking recognition as a separate group in the Lok Sabha.

He said midterm elections have been avoided and an alternative stable government will be formed within this week. Asked whether he has staked his claim for forming the government during his meeting with the president, Mr. Venkataraman, this morning, he said this stage has not come as yet.

Janata Urges Against Allowing Shekhar Government

BK0611152590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal has urged the president not to invite Mr. Chandra Shekhar or any other unattached member of parliament to form a government as they have no political mandate from the people. The party has also told the president that it is willing to join the efforts to form a national government if all political parties cooperate in the venture. A 10-member delegation led by Mr. S.R. Bommai and Mr. V.P. Singh met the president in New Delhi this evening and explained yesterday's political developments and the party's stand on the issue. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

Talking to newsmen waiting outside Rashtrapati Bhavan [presidential residence], Mr. Bommai and Mr. V.P. Singh said the unattached group led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar is not even a splinter group and by their activities, they have lost the sanctity of the mandate of the people. The Janata Dal delegation included Mr. Madhu Dandavate, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. Arun Nehru, Mr. Sharad Yadav, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, and Mr. George Fernandes.

Later, a spokesman for the prime minister clarified that the National Front would accept a national government only if it includes left parties and excludes the BJP.

BJP Says Midterm Poll Solution to Crisis

BK0611165090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has again asserted that the only way out at the present juncture is midterm polls and called upon all political parties to seek fresh mandate from the people. Describing the attempt by the Janata Dal-Socialist [Shekhar's group] to form a government with the Congress-I support, the BJP general secretary, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, said such moves are against the mandate of the electorate.

Singh Speaks on Confidence Motion in Lok Sabha

BK0711064990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Amidst noisy scenes the special session of the Lok Sabha has taken up for discussion the motion of confidence in the V.P. Singh Ministry. The one-line motion was moved by the prime minister himself. Mr. V.P. Singh said the issue before the house is not the fate of the government but the principles and values which bind the country together. He said the fate of his government was decided the very day the decision to stop the rath yatra [chariot journey to the disputed Hindu-Muslim shrine] of Mr. Advani was taken. Defnding his action on the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, Mr. V.P. Singh said it is the government's responsibility to uphold the principles of secularism and the court verdict. He said sincere efforts were made to resolve the issue through prolonged negotiations with religious leaders and others concerned.

The prime minister was still speaking when reports last came.

'Virtually' Concedes Loss

BK0711075990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha, which assembled this morning for a one- day special session, is now discussing an unprecedented motion of confidence in the Council of Ministers. Moving the one-line motion, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, virtually conceded that the 11-month long National Front government has lost the majority support in the house, but called upon members to vote according to their conscience. He also said there are suggestions for the formation of a national government. He said this can be formed with the involvement of Left parties, but the Bharatiya Janata Party has to be kept out as the party considered itself above the constitution and law. In an hour-long speech, the prime minister said the real purpose of bringing the confidence motion is not to test the fate of the government but to have a debate on the real issues confronting the nation today in the highest forum of the country.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the historic special session began in a supercharged atmosphere with slogans for and counter-slogans against the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. A BSP [Bahuguna Samaj Party] member was seen moving to the well of the house in an agitated mood. Mr. Ram Dhan, Janata Dal, alleged that he had been intimidated by some sections in the wake of the split in the ruling party. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government should ensure as much protection as the prime minister gets to Mr. Ram Dhan if the allegations are true.

Singh, Shekhar Address No-Confidence Debate

BK0711102090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha, which assembled this morning for a one-day session, is now discussing the motion of confidence in the Council of Ministers. Moving the one-line motion, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, virtually conceded that the 11-month-old National Front government had lost majority support in the house but called upon members to vote according to their conscience. He also said there are suggestions for the formation of a national government. He said this can be formed with the involvement of left parties, but the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has to be kept out, as the party considers itself above the Constitution and the law.

In an hour-long speech, the prime minister said the real purpose of bringing in the confidence motion was not to test the fate of the government but to have a debate on the real issues confronting the nation today in the highest forum of the country. The basic question, he said, is the preservation of secularism and the emotional unity of the country. Mr. Singh said the fate of the government was decided the very day the decision was taken to stop the Rath Yatra [Advani's chariort journey], as the BJP had made it clear that they would withdraw support if that was done. He criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party for exploiting religion for making political capital.

Referring to the Ram Janmabhoomi [disputed shrine in Ayodhya] issue, he gave details of the efforts made to solve the tangle and said only two options could be there. One is to resolve the issue through negotiations or to abide by the court verdict. The prime minister also contended that the National Front government has come to power on the people's mandate, which was clearly against the Congress-I. The BJP had never made the Ram Janmabhoomi issue a condition for extending support to it and the action of bringing down the government is a clear violation of the people's mandate.

The prime minister also referred to the implementation of the Mandal Commission report [on job reservation for lower castes], which was a significant step for promoting social justice. He alleged that some parties and groups, who felt unhappy over this progressive step but could not come out in the open, have brought up other issues and joined together to vote the government out of power.

During the discussion, Mr. Chandra Shekhar criticized Mr. V.P. Singh for only talking about principles and said he did not put them into practice during his 11-month rule. He also charged the prime minister with indulging in cheap gimmicks and opportunism to stick to the chair and create hurdles in the way of others. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that midterm election at the present juncture will provoke large-scale violence and there is a need to give a new hope to the people. He said if [the] Mr. V.P. Singh Ministry could obtain Congress-I support for postponing the Punjab elections, there is nothing wrong in forming a government with the help of the same party.

In a scathing attack on the performance of the V.P. Singh government, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it has failed on all fronts and brought misery and sorrow to the people. Referring to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, Mr. Chandra Shekhar blamed the prime minister with making no sincere efforts to resolve the issue and trying to appease both the sides at the same time. He wondered why Mr. Advani's Rath Yatra was not stopped well in time and a serious situation allowed to develop. He said the manner in which the ordinance on the Ayodhya Temple land was issued and subsequently revoked has brought into disrepute the institution and the highest office. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it is not too late even now to resolve the issue through negotiations involving the religious leaders and appealed to the BJP to help in creating conducive atmosphere for this purpose.

Participating in the debate, Mr Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], criticized both BJP and the Congress-I for what they called their unity of action and purpose to oppose the confidence motion. He accused them of joining hands on communal issues. He said the country cannot be permitted to be destabilized on the basis of religion.

Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, BJP, said the government failed on all fronts and attacked the leftists for supporting the government in its action on the Ayodhya issue. He said the Army was called out in many cities but the government did not do anything to protect innocent persons from being killed by the terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He said all the vital issues facing the country, incldiuing price rise, unemployment, Punjab, Kashmir, and the issue of Kar Seva [voluntary service to build Lord Rama Temple at Ayodhya] be taken to the electorate to have a fresh mandate. The debate is continuing.

Further On Debate

BK0711100890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 7 (AFP)—India's Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh Wednesday faced a parliamentary confidence vote he seemed bound to lose saying his government had upheld secularism at the risk of losing power.

"The government had to make a decision whether to save itself and remain in power or to safeguard principles," the 59-year-old premier told the tense, packed house.

Mr. V.P. Singh, who was expected to lose the "trial of strength" vote after a major split in his ruling party Monday, said he had moved to stop militant Hindus trying to demolish a mosque knowing it would cost his government vital support.

"You have betrayed the nation," party defectors and opponents jeered as he rose to the cheers of party

loyalists and left wing MP's at the start of the session to read the one-line confidence motion.

The press and visitors galleries were packed to overflowing with journalists, diplomats, special invitees and members of the upper house, as television camera crews fought to reach politicans as they entered, witnesses said.

Most prominent among those present were dissident ruling party politician Chandra Shekhar, 63, who led the breakaway MP's and who Tuesday began seeking support to form a new government, and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has pledged his support to the dissidents.

Should Mr. V.P. Singh's 11-month old National Front government lose the vote, Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman is charged under the Constitution with choosing who to call on to form a new government, or scheduling fresh elections.

The confidence vote was forced after the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew its support from the government two weeks ago during an explosive Hindu-Moslem dispute.

In his 40-minute opening speech Mr. V.P. Singh said his government had risked losing the support of the BJP "with its eyes open."

"We staked our government on upholding principles," the bespectacled premier told the house, referring to the decision to block thousands of militant Hindus from marching on and storming a mosque in northern India.

Some 24 of the militants were killed in police gunfire when they tried to storm the mosque twice last week.

"When we took the decision to stop the Rath Yatra (the procession of militants led by BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani) we decided to abide by the principles and not to be bothered whether we are in power or not.

"If we had made any compromise on this issue we would have been in government, but the issue was saving the country," he told the house.

"There was a question mark, the government had to make a decision whether to save itself and remain in power or safeguard the principles," he added, outlining their significance in the light of the Indian Constitution which upholds secularism, the separation of church and state and the unity of the nation.

Moslems, numbering 100 million, are the largest minority in Hindu majority India.

The tall, bearded Chandra Shekhar, who spoke immediately after Mr. V.P. Singh, charged the prime minister with having made "hasty, populist decisions" and taking a "confrontationalist" stand on the mosque-temple dispute which has claimed more than 250 lives.

He also lambasted Mr. V.P. Singh for opening the door to multi- national companies, and being two-faced over his pledges to improve the lot of India's "toiling poor" when he knew the country did not have the resources to do so.

"Throughout its tenure of 11 months, the government has failed completely on all fronts, be it solving the explosive problems in the Punjab, Kashmir or the price rise," he charged.

Seven 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK0511160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, seven hard-core terrorists have been killed in an encounter in Amritsar District this afternoon. According to the state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, one of the killed has been identified as Balkar Singh alias Fauji, the self-styled area commander of a terrorist outfit. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from him. Meanwhile, terrorists shot dead a woman in Majitha area of the same district and two farmers in Batala area of Gurdaspur District.

Iran

Clashes Said Unlikely Before Bush Tour Over

LD0711164390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. secretary of state ended his visit of several countries of the Persian Gulf and Egypt and has gone to Turkey. These visits are taking place at a time when Iraq is trying to use the policy of freeing the hostages to delay any form of attack against it and so that it may benefit from the potential crack in the ranks of its opponents. This is Baker's second visit to the Middle East since the start of the latest crisis in the Persian Gulf and occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

This current visit, which ends with a meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, is taking place at a time when remarks are being heard about secondary [far'i] solutions to the crisis. It was exactly after the Saudi defense minister's announcement that there were grounds for being optimistic about a political solution to the crisis if parts of Kuwaiti territory were given over to Iraq, that George Bush, the U.S. President, decided to send his foreign affairs secretary [to the region] so that he could stress to cooperative Arab governments that the United States is opposed to any kind of secondary solutions that do not involve Iraq's full withdrawal from Kuwait.

Another factor in Baker's trip, according to analysts, was Iraq's play with the hostage card. The [Iraqi] decision to release all the French hostages in Iraq as well as the release of Soviets, British, and then Bulgarian and Japanese hostages, has caused concern to the United States about the possibilities of Iraq's being able to create a crack within the ranks of its opponents. U.S. reaction to

the release of a number of Western hostages, to the effect that this measure has not weakened international steadfastness over the question of Iraqi withdrawal, can be analyzed within this same framework.

Recently and on the eve of Baker's trip, Iraq has come forward with a new peace proposal, the pivotal point of which is the question of Western hostages and the release of all of them if all or several of the UN permanent members guaranteed that they would not conduct a military attack against Iraq. This proposal is very tempting to many Western powers and Japan especially, since the presidents of France and the Soviet Union in their recent meeting in Paris, insisted on a political solution, and Gorbachev explicitly stated that military action is unacceptable. The nearly identical proposals put forward by France and the Soviet Union regarding finding an Arab solution to the crisis—even though lacking an appropriate base because Arab leaders know better than others that there are too many differences between them and there are no bases for an inter-Arab understanding—show, all the same, that Paris and Moscow consider that their interests lie in the prevention of a war.

Bearing in mind that none of the solutions so far, including economic sanctions, sea and air blockades and other solutions envisaged in the UN resolution, have been effective in altering Iraqi resolve, and that Baghdad counts Kuwait as its 19th province, the possibility of a military attack is being raised more than before.

It is being said that from the climatic standpoint, now is the best time for a military attack and that the necessary coordination at command level has been established between the United States and the Saudi Arabians. But such action would probably not put a swift end to the crisis, and may last for a long time and bring the region face-to-face with a true inferno.

The U.S. Government is being gradually pressurized by both its European allies and internal public opinion into not opting for war and seeking political and economic solutions to the crisis. Now, it may be that America's warmongering remarks are to frighten Iraq and force it out of Kuwait rather than to prepare the ground for real military action. Finally, one of the aims of James Baker's trip to the region is to prepare the ground for George Bush's future visit to several Arab countries. It can at least be said that until the start of Bush's trip and its end, no military clashes are likely to take place.

Habibi Returns From Syria, Comments on Talks

LD0611174990 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6 (IRNA)—Iran and Syria share identical views concerning the Persian Gulf crisis, Vice-President Hasan Habibi said here today.

Back from a four-day visit to Syria Habibi told reporters that the two countries believe no changes should occur in the regional geography, and that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and pull out to the international borders.

Condemning the presence of foreign forces in the region, he said it would greatly harm regional tranquility.

He added that Iran and Syria share the belief that the fate of the region should be determined by the regional countries, which should also maintain its security.

During the visit foreign ministers of the two countries also held a session to review an agreement between Hizballah and Amal, Habibi said, noting that the two Shiite groups had reached an agreement, the details of which were discussed in the visit.

Habibi said during President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran the two countries decided to form a high-level committee to supervise matters of mutual interest. The committee holds meetings in Tehran and Damascus intervally.

Bilateral ties were also discussed during a lengthy meeting with President al-Asad, and the two countries would follow up the agreements in Tehran, he said. An Iranian or Syrian minister would visit Damascus or Tehran in this regard in the near future, Habibi added.

Tehran Radio Views Habibi's Visit to Damascus

LD0511131490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpts] [First] Vice President Habibi is in Syria at the head of a high-ranking delegation. [passage omitted]

The Persian Gulf crisis and the possibility of a peaceful or violent settlement is of special importance due to its effects on all the countries of the region, particularly Iran and Syria, both of which have long borders with Iraq. Owing to their geographic and political position in the region the two countries will try to see that the interests of all the peoples and countries in the region are served.

The unison of the Iranian and Syrian positions regarding the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine can increase the support of the two countries for the advancement of that revolution, particularly since the uprising of the people of Palestine was stepped up followiong the slaughter of praying Muslims at Al-'Aqsa Mosque a few weeks ago and noted in international circles.

The fortification of the Zionist regime, under the pretext of the spread of Iraq's threat, and America's double-edged approach at the Security Couyncil to the two issues of the occupation of Kuwait and of Palestine are given special importance in the foreign policy of the two countries and further necessitate increasing Iranian-Syrian cooperation in international circles to combat world arrogance and attain the rights of deprived nations.

The crushing of Michel 'Awn, the commander of the rebel Lebanese army, by the joint Syrian-Lebanese forces, has created new conditions in Lebanon. The exit of paramilitary forces from the capital of that country and a Beirut empty of paramilitary forces and weapons that are not government issue has brought about the possibility of an expansion of the Lebanese cabinet and the participation of Lebanese political forces.

Because of the two countries' concern about the fate of the innocent Lebanese Muslims all these issues require coordination and concord between Iranian and Syrian authorities. Particularly since, because of its large base among Lebanese Muslims, Iran could play a significant role in coordinating Islamic forces in projects aimed at attaining the rights of the people.

Besides official meetings, the Iranian delegation will meet separately delegations from Hizballah of Lebanon, headed by its secretary general [Subhi Tufaili], and from the Amal movement, led by Nabih Birri, at our country's embassy in Damascus. It is hoped that with the efforts of our country's officials and the cooperation of the Syrian Government, the disputes between those two Mulsim Lebanese groups, which has left behind hundreds dead or injured so far, are properly resolved and the might of the Muslims is utilized in the struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem and attaining the rights of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims.

Commentary on Lebanese Situation, New Agreement

LD0611212690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1645 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The relentless efforts of the Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers and their talks in the past few days with the officials of the Hezbollah and Amal Movements have eventually born fruit and resulted in the signing of an agreement between these two Muslim Lebanese groups. [passage omitted]

Although in the past there have been various agreements signed between Hezbollah and Amal, in practice these did not have much success. But the signing of the new agreement despite the bitter past, shows that the two groups are determined to solve their differences and are trying to put the violent past behind them and start a new era of cooperation.

What heightens the hope about the implementation of the present agreement is the change in the political structure of that country. On the basis of the present agreement, the two groups will prepare the ground for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the southern part of the country by offering facilities and removing obstacles and those refugees who have left the area because of the clashes will soon return to it.

The political and military control of southern Lebanon, which is the only open front for struggle against the Zionist regime, has been a cause for dispute and conflict between the Amal movement and Hezbollah and the transfer of the area's internal security to the country's army will free the militia forces of the two Muslim groups and afford the opportunity to intensify the struggle against the occupying regime of al-Quds [Jerusalem] and free the occupied territories of southern Lebanon.

Of course, the implementation of this matter will depend on the agreement between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian forces, since the greatest part of the Palestinian guerrillas are present east of Sidon and part of southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Government, which intends to extend its sovereignty to all of its territory, considers this armed presence illegal. Nevertheless, the toppling of Michel 'Awn, the rebel commander, and the unification of the two eastern and western parts of Beirut depicts a new chapter in the history of Lebanon in which the Muslim forces must assume a new role commensurate with Lebanon's developments toward the vindication of the people's rights. [passage omitted]

The struggle of the Muslims, which went on for many years, transformed the dominant equations in Lebanon and the present system in that country has reconciled itself with these developments by changing its methods and stepping toward fulfilling the demands of the Muslim majority of that country. According to the recent statements of secretary general of Hezbollah, if some problems are solved, Hezbollah and Amal will participate in the present Cabinet.

In the light of the new situation and the relative agreement between the internal groups on the one hand, and the foreign countries which are influencial in Lebanon on the other hand, the Muslims of that country are preparing themselves to take a political role for the continuation of this struggle.

The alliance and unity of the Muslim forces, and at its center, the struggling Shiite forces, are manifest as a great and urgent necessity. The efforts of our country for establishing unity among the Muslims is one of the most important achievements of Mr. Habibi, the first vice-president, and his accompanying mission.

President Calls For Eliminating Nuclear Weapons

LD0611123290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Hans Blix, the secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], before noon today. In the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Amrollahi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Mr. Hans Blix referred to the fact that 141 countries have signed the agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons, praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's sincere cooperation with the IAEA and added: Iran is expected to do more toward the establishment of peaceful conditions in the world.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then praised the efforts made by the IAEA for controlling nuclear weapons and said: Today, people need to use atomic energy. However, the negative effects of that energy in accidents and the use of nuclear weapons must be prevented; for even if only one country in the world is armed with nuclear weapons, controlling it will be impossible.

Stressing that the mere signing of the agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons is not enough, the president added: In view of the existence of intercontinental missiles and the experience of Iraq's use of chemical weapons in the war against Iran, it has been proven that whenever the vital interests of countries are threatened, they will not obey international regulations. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a system based on ideological and ethical principles, will, of course, abide by its commitments; but that is not true of all countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the Persian Gulf crisis and said: If the United States is caught up in a war in the Persian Gulf, the nature and conclusion of the war will not be clear. The Islamic Republic of Iran, therefore, while stressing [the importance of] neutral international supervision of nuclear weapons, calls for the removal of that weapon from all countries.

Daily Urges Preparation To Receive War Refugees

LD0511090990 Tehran IRNA in English 0752 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Monday [5 November] warned Iranian officials and international agencies to get ready for taking care of between 1-3 million refugees, if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf region.

Commenting on the current visit to the Middle East of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the daily added in its editorial that Basra, Kuwait City and Baghdad with almost six million civilians will be war theaters in case of war and that Iran will be the nearest and safest shelter for those who flee the scene.

"Let all those possessed of a humanitarian conscience look at the map and realise that the American war machine is poised to add a million or more war refugees to the 2.5 million currently domiciled in Iran," it said.

Referring to the United Nataions Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) appeal for donor assistance, the daily said "and though we are bombarded by news of troops deployments and threats from President Bush, nothing is being heard of donor response to the UNDRO appeal."

The editorial doubted whether Tehran has prepared any plan to meet the dilemma and asked what response international communities will give to the Iranian dilemma and an influx of refugees numbering more than the whole of what was Kuwait.

"World capitals, including this one and international agencies had better wake up and smell the coffee," concluded the daily.

Tehran Daily on U.S. 'Double Standards'

NC0211132090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Expediency"]

[Text] One of the reasons why the United States has not been able to maintain a successful long-term policy toward the Middle East has been because of the application of selective approaches characterized by expediency or double standards toward the region's problems.

The victory of Washington's dealings in the region is replete with examples of contradictory approaches in which balanced policies have been discarded in favor of those with immediate results. For example, what the U.S. has advocated in relation to Israel is exactly the opposite of what it has relation to the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular. [sentence as published]

The text of President Bush's speech to a Republican Party fund-raising rally in Iowa this week is very descriptive of this double standard. "You cannot bully your neighbor, you cannot wipe him out... Iraqi aggression will not be allowed to stand. Saddam Husayn will be held accountable," Bush said about Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

U.S. has definite "vital interests" in Kuwait and the continuity of its previous regime and, therefore, it is argued that Iraq should not bully it. But the same Iraq which for almost a decade pounded Iran with bombs and missiles, annihilated the southern half of it and inflicted irreversible human and material damages was never questioned about its acts toward Iran. It was never asked to stop and, on the contrary, was on many occasions directly or indirectly encouraged to carry on with its campaign of destruction.

Where was the U.S. to ask for accountability when Iraq was destroying Iranian towns and cities, taking as captives women and children, applying chemical bombs on civilians...? The answer lies in the fact that at the time it was in the interest of U.S. and constituted a part and parcel of its policy to let Iraq have a free hand with what it wanted to do in relation to Iran. What Iraq did to Iran, it is doing now partially to Kuwait. And all of a sudden everything that Iraq was encouraged to do to Iran with a consenting silence over a period of a decade is considered unlawful.

The same unjust criteria apply to the Palestinian people. They are abused, degraded,... killed in their own country by ruthless Israeli soldiers. What Palestinians do in their own self-defense is terrorism but what Israelis do is called defense of legitimate rights. Palestinians are constantly asked to discard the intifadah that they've used to call attention to their problems in favor of negotiated

settlement and by pursuing their cause through established channels only to find that they are systematically obstructed in their efforts to realize justice whenever they try. It took Iraq ten years and enormous support to make it what it is today, and good or bad it is the product of U.S. and Western nutruring and the international public cannot help feeling confused about sudden switch in Western policy toward it. Yesterday's good guy is all of a sudden today's bad one. How can Western governments explain this sudden shift in policy? It can only reflect on their shallow judgement.

If U.S. is pursuing a balanced policy toward Kuwait, let it be known that it is very much overshadowed by its past policies and people are simply skeptical of it. At the root of the problem lies the fact that Western policy toward most Third World countries and especially the Middle East—because of its wealth—have been one-sided and selfish. What is always ignored is the interests of the nations. As long as the U.S. and its allies rely on expediency and realization of their own selfish interests they will not be credible and popular and their policies, even when balanced, would be shrouded in skepticism.

Paper Criticizes Israel for Al-Aqsa Incident

NC0211151290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Palestine—A Point of No Return"]

[Excerpts] The Zionist killing of twenty-one Palestinians on Monday, Oct. 8, certainly one of the most bizarre events in occupied Palestine since Israel captured the Eastern Arab part of Qods in 1967, has raised a number of new questions. The role of the United Nations as an international forum as well as the credibility of the Security Council are once again at the forefront of criticism.

After five days of almost non-stop discussions and negotiations, which included two all-night sessions, the council finally approved unanimously on Saturday a resolution condemning the Zionist police violence which claimed Palestinian lives and wounded more than one hundred Arabs. The much-amended resolution was a far cry from a tougher draft sponsored earlier by the non-aligned members of the council which supported the Palestine issue.

Another major point of contention had been whether the council should send a mission to the Zionist-occupied territories or whether an investigation commission should be sent by the secretary general. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its supporters believe a council team would be in a far better position to make recommendations than the 15-member body while the United States wants the secretary general to despatch a team. The latter was adopted in the resolution.

Despite the fact that the United States, this time, did not exercise its veto power on a resolution critical of Israel, the general impression is that the American move was just a political maneuver to safeguard (for the time being) its best friend and ally, Israel. This time, however, the Shamir government is facing the danger of losing this particular battle; this time in the political and peace process game. Israel contending for over two years with the Palestinians in occupied territories and failing to find any solution militarily or otherwise, risks losing its internal peace and maneuvering space. [passage omitted]

Another question arising from the latest development in Palestine is the PLO's compromising stance to achieve peace in the Middle East. Five years ago, Israel declared officially that it was the Palestinians who held the key to the crisis: Let them only recognize the Jewish state and its rights. When the PLO did so, making all concessions, Israel rejected their outstretched hands and went its own way.

The Palestine issue has reached a point of no return. No longer will any U.N. Security Council resolution nor Yasir 'Arafat's compromises be able to sustain and keep this issue hanging in limbo. An element of compulsion so vividly alive among the Palestinians exists. There is no longer room for forgiveness. The rebellion of Palestinians living in the occupied territories has become a problem which even a powerful army equipped to deal with any enemy has proved to be unable of solving.

The spirit of resistance and stones in the hands of children will haunt the Zionist occupiers more than ever. With or without a U.S.-inspired U.N. Security Council resolution, nor the presence of a U.N. probe mission—the Palestinian issue can only be resolved by the Palestinians alone. [sentence as published] With the massacre in Jerusalem, the Palestinian Muslim brothers have been forced into a position when they must decide. And for the present, it shows they have the readiness, the will and the spiritual strength to do so.

KEYHAN HAVA'I Comments on Elections

PM0211101290 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 24 Oct 90 pp 2, 29

[Editorial: "A Dignified Way To Bring Together 'Principles' and the 'People's Votes' in the Imam's Philosophy," by KEYHAN HAVA'I political editor]

[Text] On 16 October 1990 Mr Asqar-zadeh, the Majles deputy for Tehran, gave a pre-agenda speech, a summary of which is carried in this newspaper in the Majles report. In this speech he wanted to show that the election results from Tehran prove a victory and not a defeat for the leftist and radical faction. Second, he tried for obvious reasons to belittle the people's participation in the elections and claimed that the people's lack of participation was justified. Then, in a lengthy discussion he tried to show that the line of thought, which according to him is prevailing, basically does not care about the people's vote or their participation in issues, whereas the Imam believed in the people's serious and effective role and considered them to be the standard against which all things were judged.

With regard to the figures given, and their accuracy or inaccuracy, there was some comparison by him about which one could say a great deal. But because of the importance of the last issue mentioned by him and in the hope that we will prevent possible mistakes and deviations by mentioning this issue, while commenting on other things, we will talk in greater length about the issue of people and principles in the imam's philosophy.

1. The elections for the Experts, because they involve choosing the leadership and because they go beyond the factional differences within the regime and because they are linked to the issue of velayat-ye faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]—which is an accepted principle by all internal forces within this regime—will no doubt have no winners and no losers. The Experts are the wise men of our society from all factions. They are chosen by the people's vote, and are distanced from the various differences of opinion. Only by considering principles and standards, will they choose as leader someone suitable who is familiar with Islam's principles and the world situation. This is why despite differences of opinion with regard to small internal issues, when they get to the issue of velayat-e faqih, they have the same opinion and act unanimously. We saw a prime example of this during the election of Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader. Of course in these conditions, to speak of a winner or a loser—from whoever or whatever faction—indicates a lack of understanding of the position of the Experts and looks at the revolution's basic issues from the narrow perspective of group or factional interests.

2. The people's participation in various arenas defending the revolution is obvious, something that both friend and foe admit. How ugly and how inexcusable it is to say that just because our friends are not in the elections, then we will not show much enthusiasm to take part in them either. So we will talk about the people's lack of participation and we shall make all kinds of efforts to explain this inaccurate claim. Evaluating why people take part in some elections more than they do in others, is possible by looking at various issues, the most important being the subject of the elections and the sensitivity of the issue. The elections for the Experts, because they were not political, because of the small numbers of candidates, because there was no competition as there is at a time of presidential or Majles elections, and also because of the normal situation in the country where the people do not feel as if they are in danger from an outside attack or internal plots, naturally received less of a welcome from the people. This was something that was anticipated. Of course by keeping in mind what was said before and by comparing this to what was predicted by experts, it could be claimed that people participated more than was expected and this much is admirable.

Perhaps comparison between two sets of figures makes it more clear. In the by-elections of the Majles last year, at the peak of competition between the two factions only 660,000 people in Tehran took part in the Majles elections. This time because more people participated in the elections for the Experts, and as a result for the second round of Majles elections, Mr Sarhaddi-zadeh alone got as many votes as the total number of participants in the last round. In all about 1.1 million people took part in electing one person for Tehran and this shows the people's feeling of responsibility at sensitive and fate-determining times. It also shows that considering the normal situation in society and the fact that the Experts' elections were not sensitive, or as some would say, political, the people's participation was more than was expected.

3. The deputy from Tehran claimed that there is a movement embracing reactionary thoughts that is trying to take the people out of the political scenes in the country. He started to discuss democracy and the people's vote which was not without confusion and problems. We see in the Imam's political thinking and ideological belief a proper and dignified mixing of Islam's principles with the vote and the will of the people. This has been shortened exactly in the term "Islamic Republic." The fact that the revolution was an Islamic one has within it the rule of principles and Islamic ideology. The understanding of Republic is the acceptance of those principles by the people. Depending on principles without the consent of the people could only bring about the realization of one thought and ideology in the world and it would not be possible to implement it in society. To put into action Islam's orders and regulations is only possible by the people's acceptance of Islamic values and their efforts to prepare the proper groundwork. On the other hand, depending only on the will of the people without paying attention to ideological values, could result in Western-style democracies and liberalism which are based on humanistic and materialistic thoughts and not holy ones.

In the Islamic Republic no official can deny the role and the presence of the people or ignore it. Alongside "ideology" and "leader" the concept of "people" is a main and basic point in the stability of the regime and the victory of the revolution through various stages of its struggle. On the one hand it must be said that the imam's insistence on the simultaneous importance of the people's role and the importance of Islam's decrees, indicates the high level of importance given to this by officials. According to the imam's beliefs Islam would not be very realistic without the people's support, nor could the people reach a level of liberation without paying attention to islam's principles. The important point to note in Mr Asqar-zadeh's speech was the insistance on the people's role, which smells of not giving enough value to Islamic principles, including the velayat-e faqih regime. This is especially clear when the speaker starts to deny, in ascending order Velayat and the regime, from top to bottom. The Islamic regime has legitimacy and acceptability together. Its legitimacy comes from its political makeup and the rule of the vali-e faqih. Its acceptability goes back to the vote and support of the people. It is natural that if someone wants to question one of its arms, he will, as a matter of course, weaken the other arm which is in any case wrong.

The deputy from Tehran showed in his pre-agenda speech that he has not understood very well velayat-e faqih as the basis of the regime's legitimacy or else he does not believe in it. Otherwise he would not face difficulties in determining the connection between this principle and the role of the people. More important than that he did not confront phrases such as vali [guardian] and velayat-e faqih in a knowledgeable fashion. In that case if he agreed with the position of his faction he could have supported the position of the leadership and in the case of opposition, he could have stood up to fight in the name of defending the imam's thoughts, putting labels on the imam's beliefs that would not stick.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Views Reconstruction Work

LD0111135390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] [Announcer] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today views the progress of the reconstruction programs in the areas in Zanjan Province jolted by the earthquake. The Central News Unit correspondent reports from Qazvin on this matter:

[Unidentified correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Zanjan Province this morning to view the reconstruction progress in the regions affected by the earthquake. During his visit he was accompanied by special representatives of the eminent leader [Khamene'i] in the earthquake zones of Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, representations of the vice regency of supreme jurisconsult, the Friday prayer imams of Zanjan and Qazvin cities, the ministers of the interior and roads and transport, Majlis representatives from Zanjan Province, and the governors general of Zanjan and Yazd provinces.

In the first stage of the visit they entered the village of (Khostrud) in the earthquake-hit district of Rudbar Shahrestan, within the jurisdiction of Qazvin township. The president talked with local residents and became familiar first hand with the methods used for the temporary housing for compatriots provided with the help of Yazd Province.

Next Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in the two villages of Mirkhovand-e Sofla and (Tavinan) from the Tarom Sofla district in Qazvin and viewed the help Isfahan Province has given for the reconstruction of residential units.

At a gathering in Sarvanak and the surrounding villages of (Aghazan) district in Takestan the president praised and thanked the people of Yazd, Isfahan, and Lorestan Provinces for their efforts and gifts in helping to build temporary housing in just a few months for the compatriots affected by the earthquake. He said that although providing for all the shortages and the damages incurred is no simple task, the work that has been done is satisfactory.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the executive branch officials to try harder to provide water, electricity, shelter for livestock, and agricultural equipment for the areas hit by the earthquake.

The Central News Unit, Qazvin.

[Announcer] The Central News Unit report also indicates that to date over 15,000 residential units have been built which means that over 50 percent of those affected by the earthquake have been rehoused. All those affected by the earthquake will be rehoused in temporary homes by 21 November this year.

Provincial Governor on War Damage Rebuilding

LD0611221290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The official responsible for the reconstruction of Khuzestan Province announced today that 40 billion rials has been allocated for the reconstruction of residential and commercial areas; infrastructural construction of Abadan sewage system; levelling and preparation of [word indistinct] land; reconstruction of 1,700 residential units, two hospitals, and Abadan and Khoramshahr Boulevards; and the building of two new clinics in Abadan. The work has already started.

The governor general of Khuzestan Province added: In the second half of the current year, 20.8 billion rials of credit will be spent on the rebuilding of Khoramshahr and Abadan.

He pointed to the writing off of taxes and the (?writing off of) insurance for water, electricity, and gas for the residents of war-damaged areas, and asked the owners of industry and health centers in Khuzestan Province to attend the reconstruction headquarters of the province for the commissioning of their units.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Caring for Disabled

LD0611193590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Announcer-read remarks by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during a meeting with Mohsen Rafiqdust, head of the Oppressed and Disabled Foundation, on 6 November; place of meeting not given—recorded]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the correct and complete use of the industrial and economic centers at the disposal of the Oppressed and Disabled Foundation.

The president, who received this afternoon Mr. Mohsen Rafiqdust, the head of the foundation, further pointed to the highlights in the speech of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, who had said that the Oppressed and Disabled Foundation must move to support the state's economic policies in caring for the oppressed in the society.

He said: The centers at the disposal of the Oppressed and Disabled Foundation belong to the people and the profits from the efforts of the managers and workers of those centers must be for the elimination of the society's difficulties.

The president also emphasized the importance of paying attention to the difficulties of those disabled serving the Islamic revolution as the vanguards of the path of the Islamic Revolution and said: The Oppressed and Disabled foundation must, to the best of its ability, provide for the disabled.

In this meeting, Mr. Rafiqdust, the head of the Oppressed and Disabled Foundation, and the deputy head of the foundation, gave reports on the annual activities of the foundation and the economic changes in the affairs of the disabled to the president. Mr. Rafiqdust announced the foundation's readiness for any activity in the different economic spheres and said: The problems of the disabled have been thoroughly investigated. The authorities of the Oppressed and Disabled Foundation are obliged, considering the available resources, to strive for the elimination of the difficulties faced by the disabled.

12,000 Homeless After Earthquake in Darab Region

LD0711091590 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—According to the latest report from Shiraz, capital of Fars Province, the death toll of the Tuesday [6 November] night quake in Darab region has reached 21 with 80 others injured and 12,105 becoming homeless.

Out of the 12 villages damaged in the quake, the two villages of 'Qareh No' and 'Do-borj-e Fourk' [place-names as received] are totally demolished.

Relatively strong after-shocks have been jolting the southeastern city of Darab and surrounding areas which were hit by a 6.6 degree quake last night.

The strongest after-shock which measured 5.6 degrees on the open- ended Richter scale was felt at 23:02 hours local time (19:32 GMT) Tuesday.

According to the latest report received here, 32 hamlets in Fourk [place-name as received] village, 85 km. southeast of Darab, have been totally destroyed.

According to the figures of the 1986 census, 19 hamlets of Fourk were unpopulated while 1,155 households with a total population of 6,366 lived in the remaining hamlets.

Meanwhile, vice president in charge of executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh heading a delegation commissioned by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani left for the region Wednesday morning to supervise relief operations.

Secretary general of the Red Crescent society Mohammad Parham and a number of experts from various relief organisations are in the delegation.

The presidential headquarters dealing with natural disasters contributed 100 million rials (13 million dollars) for the quake- stricken area.

Nepal & Bhutan

'10,000' Hold Peaceful Demonstration in Kathmandu

BK0211163590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 2 (AFP)—More than 10,000 people held a peaceful demonstration here Friday in which they carried banners denouncing what they said was a conservative conspiracy against a democratic constitution for Nepal. "Let the Constitution be promulgated on the scheduled date," read one slogan, while another said, "down with the palace's conspiracy."

The demonstration was organized by a Nepal Journalist Association and a university teacher's union. Riot police guarded public buildings and followed the procession, but no violent incident occurred, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, the pro-leftist All Nepal People's Youth League held a demonstration Thursday night at Lalitpur, attended by more than 4,000 people carrying flaming torches. The demonstrators shouted slogans denouncing the monarchy and what they described as palace conspirators. Amid applause, some later burned a copy of a draft constitution prepared by the palace, witnesses said.

Reports reaching Kathmandu Friday said a similar protest was held at Siraha District, 190 kilometres (118 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, under the sponsorship of the Nepal Communist Party. Meanwhile, the United Left Front Kathmandu Committee called a general strike for Wednesday as well as a demonstration in the capital, apparently to pressure the king to promulgate a democratic constitution by the scheduled date of November 9, sources said.

King Reported To Accept Draft Constitution

BK0511123690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 5 Nov 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 5 (AFP)—King Birendra Monday accepted a draft constitution for Nepal guaranteeing a constitutional monarchy and a multi-party system, and promised to promulgate the final document on Friday, a high-placed source said. The king's proclamation of a new democratic constitution at the end of the week will be televised and broadcast over state-run radio, the cabinet source said.

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, a pro-democracy activist who became interim prime minister in the wake of a popular

movement early this year, said only "cosmetic changes" were made to the draft document. "The four basic principles like constitutional monarchy, multi-party system of government, state sovereignty vested in the general public and full-fledged human rights have been maintained intact," Mr. Bhattarai said.

"As per the wishes of the king, the national anthem and the national flag have been maintained intact without any changes from the earlier three constitutions," he said. The interim coalition government, which came to power after the two-month pro-democracy movement, had reviewed and amended four times the draft document prepared by the Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC).

During the constitutional review process, many Nepalese expressed doubt that the king would agree to full democracy and keep his promise of proclaiming the constitution on Friday because of their experience with a partyless political system that endured for 30 years, analysts said. Many protests have been held in the past two weeks to denounce alleged attempts at avoiding a democratic constitution. A protest is scheduled for Tuesday and a general strike planned for Wednesday, apparently in an effort to ensure the constitution is proclaimed on Friday.

According to the new constitution, the king will serve as head of state but not rule the government on his own. He is required to abide by the suggestions and advice of the Council of Ministers and will attend the bicameral parliament mainly for such ceremonies as opening the house every year.

The monarch will convene parliament, prolong it and declare an emergency session only on the advise of the Council of Ministers. "During the past two weeks King Birendra conferred with more than 20 top ranking leaders representing both communist and democratic parties, journalists, geographers, demographers, educationists, lawyers, and economists," the cabinet source said.

During these meetings the king had always promised to accept the new draft constitution forwarded to him by the Council of Ministers, but maintained that he had every right to express his own viewpoint, the source said. Participating in the meetings were anti-monarchical Marxist and Leninist leaders, including Chandra Prakash Mainali who had been in hiding for about 20 years since he escaped from jail and was eventually pardoned by the king last month.

Also present was Jhala Nath Khanal, a prominent figure in the Council of Ministers who represents the Marxist and Leninist group under the United Left Front (ULF). In his first public appearance last week, Mr. Mainali warned that the king would pay a heavy price if there were any deceptive move against the promulgation of a democratic constitution.

Some critics said the king during his meetings had tried to split the pro-democratic Nepali Congress and the ULF—an alliance of the seven factions of the Nepali Communist Party—in a bid to retain his full authority. Other changes to the draft constitution included provisions limiting the royal family's role in politics and business.

"If royal family members want to do private business, they have to abide by the country's fiscal and monetary policies and pay necessary taxes to the government," a cabinet source said. Meanwhile, the pro-Marxist Peasant and Labour Union is scheduled to hold a protest march on Tuesday and a general strike has been called for Wednesday by the ULF Kathmandu Committee, apparently to pressure the king to promulgate the draft constitution on Friday, as originally scheduled.

German Delegation Arrives in Nepal for Aid Talks

BK0411144590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 4 (AFP)—A high-level German delegation arrived here Sunday for talks on aid and economic cooperation between Nepal and Germany, a Nepalese Finance Ministry official said. The delegation, headed by Wolf Preuss, a senior official from Bonn's Economic Cooperation Ministry was met by Shashi Narayan Shah, Finance Ministry secretary, who will lead Nepal's delegation in three days of talks ending Wednesday.

The talks will review current German aid projects and "identify new areas of cooperation," the official said. He said the talks would also assess the economic effects of labour unrest and political changes here, and set the level for German economic assistance to Nepal until mid-July 1992.

A German Embassy spokesman here said the level of Bonn's aid would depend on more democratisation and improved human rights in Nepal. The Finance Ministry official said the German delegation included senior officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the German Institute for Technical and Economic Cooperation (GTZ) and the Credit Bank for Reconstruction (KFW) Frankfurt.

Germany is Nepal's second largest source of aid after Japan and has advanced between 67 million U.S. dollars and 70 million dollars in the past two decades.

Almost half of that went towards a 66 megawatt hydroelectric power project commissioned early this year, the Finance Ministry official said. Germany has also given commitments to finance the Arun-three hydroelectric power project which is expected to cost 600 million U.S. dollars, he said. Construction of the Arun-three project, believed to have potential power generation capacity of 402 megawatts, is due to start in 1992, the official said.

Sri Lanka

Defense Ministry Reports Clashes in Northeast

BK0611124290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The security forces have gained control of more than half (?shoreline) of the Mannar Island. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have chased away the entire Muslim population of over 35,000 in the village of Erukkilampiddi. They are now refugees in Kalpitiya and Puttalam. Reports confirm the allegations made by these refugees that their homes have been looted by the terrorists. The security forces recovered large quantities of plastic cans and barrels which indicated that the this had been the main storage and distribution point for fuel. Many vehicles were also recovered by the security forces during the last 48 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. Clearing operations are in progress in the Talvupadu, Mannar Town, Kalmunai, (Karapuram), and Erukkilampiddi areas.

A Defense Ministry communique says that at Mawathipuram in the Jaffna Peninsula, the security forces lost 11 soldiers and 19 were wounded due to an attack by the LTTE terrorists in the early hours of Sunday. The security forces have now located 15 bodies of terrorists with their weapons, grenades, and ammunition. It is reported that many LTTE terrorists have suffered serious injuries. The Navy patrolling between the island of (Alativu) and Kayts of the Jaffna Peninsula fired upon a ballam [boat] of LTTE terrorists. Eight LTTE terrorists were reported dead and four very seriously wounded. A large quantity of food items, subversive LTTE terrorist literature, grenades, and ammunition were recovered.

A large group of LTTE terrorists attacked the village of (Bangarakumukava) between (Veyakayawawa) and (Moropotama) in the Anuradhapura District and killed four civilians. The terrorists set ablaze a CTB [Ceylon Transport Board] bus, two tractors, and four houses. The terrorists fled on the arrival of the home guards and security forces. According to the communique, in the Batticaloa area, a group of Muslims fishing in the Valaichchenai Lagoon were fired upon by LTTE terrorists. Two of the fishermen were abducted by the terrorists. One fisherman escaped with gun shot injuries, two are reported missing. In the (Wachhuantivu) area, the security forces conducting a search and clearing operations, arrested one LTTE terrorist and recovered 10 steel beds, steel furniture, and a large number of telephone and electric wire ropes which were (?buried). These items are reported to have been looted by the LTTE terrorists from Muslim traders and government establishments.

Press Reportage on Clashes

BK0511144190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1145 GMT 5 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 5 (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty-three more LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed by the security forces, according to field reports reaching Colombo today.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the bodies of 15 terrorists were found as the dust settled on an abortive LTTE attack on the security forces at Mawathipuram, Jaffna, Saturday [3 November] which is controlled by government troops. The sources said LTTE casualties were much heavier, but many of the dead and wounded had been taken away by the terrorists as they fled in the face of superior, tactical firepower as they tried to overrun an army bunker. Eleven soldiers were also killed in this firefight.

Four LTTE terrorists were shot dead by the security forces in an encounter at Wilgamwehera in the Eastern Trincomalee District Sunday. LTTE radio intercepts revealed that two area leaders had been killed at Kadukulampathi, east of Trincomalee Saturday when security forces destroyed an LTTE base being abandoned by the terrorists. One soldier was killed and four wounded in the exchange of fire in which the LTTE suffered heavy casualties.

Rebel-Held Hospital Reopens Under Red Cross

BK0611132890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP)—The rebel-held Jaffna Hospital in northern Sri Lanka, closed since Tamil guerrillas and government troops renewed fighting on June 11, was reopened Tuesday by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], officials said.

The hospital was reopened after months of negotiations held by the Red Cross with leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan Government, a Red Cross official here said.

He said the Tigers had vacated the large hospital, which caters to some 800,000 people in the Jaffna peninsula, and that ICRC officials were busy marking the boundary of a 350-meter (yard) safety zone around the facility.

Colombo vacated troops from a nearby Army-held fort on September 26 and asked the Red Cross to move into the fort to facilitate the reopening of the hospital.

Muslim Refugees Resettled at Kuppiyawatte

BK0511095890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0747 GMT 5 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 5 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Muslim refugees who had [words indistinct] Colombo, have now been resettled at the Kuppiyawatte community centre on the speedy directions of President Ransinghe Premadasa.

The president's intervention diffused likely tension building up on the college premises, with the disruption of classes, had these refugees remained there.

A statement signed by Zahira principal M. Sameem throws light on how these refugees came to Zahira in the first instance. It reads: "On 31-10-1990 at about 2130 [1600 GMT], I was informed by the chairman of the Board of Governors that refugees had come to the college and had forcibly entered the premises and occupied the corridors of the Gaffoor building. I rushed to the scene and found that it was true.

The security told me that Mr. Abu Bakr (SLMC) [Sri Lanka Muslim Congress] MP [member of parliament] for Wanni (had) brought these refugees and had left the place. As I found there were a large number of women and children among the refugees, I immediately gave them accommodation in five classrooms.

Food for the refugees was provided by some teachers. The morning breakfast was provided by the Board of Prefects. Maradana OIC [officer in charge] Mr. Bernard Silva was with me throughout the night, helping me in these arrangements. We were able to carry on the activities of the school next day without any disruption as students of a few classes had gone on an educational tour.

Mr. Abu Bakr, MP visited the school the next day and informed me in the presence of the chairman of the Board of Governors and a senior police officer that more refugees (were) on the way to the school".

Mr. Sameem's statement alleges that Mr. Abu Bakr had asked that the school, being a Muslim institution, and its hostel be closed for six months to accommodate the refugees and that the MP had asked the refugees not to leave the premises under any circumstances.

Mr. Sameem has said he felt there was a certain amount of tension among the outsiders, who were coming to see the refugees.

"However, thanks to the efforts of the president, who had been in constant touch with various organisations and departments ever since he learnt about the arrival of the refugees, who crowded Zahira College and were shifted to the community centre at Kuppiyawatte," Mr. Sameem said.

He adds: "The school is now able to function without any hindrance, and a major incident has been averted. The police informed me that according to their intelligence reports, there would have been disturbances of the peace after Jummah [Friday] prayers at Maradana mosque on Friday, which is in the same premises as the school, by some mischief makers".

The refugees were moved out by special police and Air Force buses at 0030 that day and resettled at Kuppiyawatte on the instructions of the president.

"The school and the Muslim community in particular are thankful to the president for averting a calamity", Mr. Sameem says, adding that the Muslim community should appreciate the action taken by the president.